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Magen David paramedics take Odella Ben-Yamina to an ambulance after the car she was riding in crashed into a lamppost yesterday. Her brother Amir and sister Karen (inset) were killed in the crash. (Avihu Shapiro)

Brother, sister die in crash; 2nd sister critical

A brother and sister were killed yesterday, and another sister was critically injured, when the small four-passenger car they and four others were traveling in crashed into a lamppost.

Amir Ben-Yamina, 23, and his 15-year-old sister Karen were buried in their hometown of Kiryat Shmona yesterday afternoon. Their mother Ilana went straight from the funeral to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where their sister Odella, 17, is in critical condition. The four other passengers - Shahar Azoulay, 16, Asaf Dardari, 20, Ilan Elmakayis, 21, and Yael Miller, 16 - were lightly to moderately injured. They all are in Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed.

"The dead absorbed most of the impact and their bodies saved their friends' lives," according to police.

"We had gone out to get some fresh air at the promenade over the Jordan," Elmakayis said. "We went there around 10 p.m. in a car that Amir Ben-Yamina was driving and that seven people were in. We came back together at 2 a.m. We all squeezed into the car together. We were sitting on top of one another because, after all, we're talking about a short ride."

"We are close friends, friends from childhood. Three days ago we celebrated Odella's birthday. We sang and laughed."

"We don't go to nightclubs. We went out to walk along the promenade and it's a pity that this ended in such a tragic way."

As they were making their way through the industrial zone in Kiryat Shmona, the car crashed into a lamppost. Police said that, according to an initial investigation, the accident was the result of driving too fast and overstuffing the car. None of the youths was intoxicated.

Elmakayis said he doesn't

remember the actual accident.

He recalled that "I heard a scream - Amir - and suddenly I found myself in an ambulance on the way to the hospital."

Hundreds of people turned out for Amir and Karen's funeral and special prayers were held in all of Kiryat Shmona's synagogues. Earlier this month, two other residents of the town were killed in traffic accidents.

"Kiryat Shmona is crying today over this horrible tragedy that took the lives of two youths, a brother and a sister. We all are praying for Odella's healing," Rabbi Shalom Levy said. (Ilim)

PM: Pullout deal by July 29

Spanish premier says Madrid willing to host talks

By HERS KEINON and news agencies

Negotiations with the Palestinians over the second withdrawal will be concluded by July 29, when the Knesset recesses for the summer, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

"I think this issue will be concluded by then," he told Israel Radio, adding, "I can't say for sure, because I can't tell the Palestinians what to do. If they don't give suitable answers, they will determine the fate of the process."

Netanyahu said it is the issue of reciprocity, and not the depth of the next withdrawal, that is holding up the peace process.

"There are still gaps in negotiations over the second withdrawal," Netanyahu said. "But we are not dealing with that. Now we are trying to arrive at a solution on issues of reciprocity. We are not willing to accept an agreement that is not an agreement."

Meanwhile, at a ceremony in Jerusalem marking the arrival of Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, Netanyahu said that once the negotiations with the Palestinians are concluded, he would like to see an international conference convened to deal with wider, regional issues.

In raising this controversial issue in the presence of Aznar, Netanyahu stressed that such a conference would not be a substitute for direct, bilateral talks with the Palestinians.

"After we finish (the negotiations)," Netanyahu said, "I would be happy if an additional international conference for regional issues would convene. This is not a substitute, and does not replace bilateral negotiations that must be held directly between the sides."

Netanyahu added that he would be very happy if such a conference were held in Madrid, as was a 1991 Mideast peace conference.

"I am very fond of that city," he said as he welcomed Aznar.

Aznar was receptive to the idea. "If, at a certain time, there is a need for Madrid to serve as the venue for a peace conference, rest assured that we will be willing to make this possible," Aznar said.

Netanyahu also urged Spain to help break the deadlock in negotiations with the Palestinians.

"Spain has excellent relations with the Palestinians and the Arab world," Netanyahu said, "and if Spain uses its influence, if you, sir, use your influence, I hope one more push will get the wagon out of the mud in which it is stuck and lead us toward a peace with security and reciprocity."

Netanyahu's clarification of his proposal for another regional conference came after a day of searing criticism of the idea from everyone from Labor Party leader Ehud Barak to MK Yossi Beilin and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy.

"It's another hot-air balloon intended to divert public opinion from the crucial issues, the failure to advance the peace process and implement the pullout," Barak said.

Meretz Party leader Yossi Sarid said that "there'll be snow in Jerusalem in July before we'll see a Madrid 2 conference. It's another manipulation by Netanyahu, who gets up every morning throwing unfounded things into the air. There isn't a country in the world which would come to Madrid or any other place, when the negotiations with the Palestinians are in a deep crisis."

See DEAL, Page 2

Tichon postpones draft bill

By LIAT COLLINS and MICHAEL YUDEMANN

The Left strongly criticized yesterday's decision by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to postpone by a week the preliminary reading of Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's bill on drafting yeshiva students.

"The attempt to postpone my bill is a political maneuver and is unworthy of the Knesset," Barak said.

Tichon dismissed Barak's objection as "nonsense," saying, "Barak is a new MK and doesn't know the rules. All I'm doing is postponing the bill by one week."

This is the first private member's bill Barak has submitted.

Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt said Tichon is deliberately delaying the reading, which had been scheduled for Wednesday, because the publicity campaign in support of the bill was timed to climax this week. The campaign includes actions such as yesterday's march from Bnei Brak to the IDF induction center at Tel Hashomer.

Goldschmidt also called the delay an attempt to give Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu more time to muster opposition to the bill.

At a meeting on the issue yesterday, Labor's leadership said Tichon's decision was made to enable Netanyahu to use steamroller tactics to sabotage the support Barak's bill has in the public and



Youths wave the national flag as they march from Bnei Brak to the army induction center at Tel Hashomer to show haredim the way to the army. Some 100 youths took part in the demonstration. (Israel Hadas)

Knesset. Barak asked Goldschmidt and MK Nissim Zivli to form a team of MKs in the Knesset presidium and House Committee to consult with senior legal experts on how to change Tichon's decision.

See DRAFT, Page 2

The tortuous path to conversion

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Danny Lukats left a good job in Germany because he wanted to become a Jew. He was converted by an Orthodox rabbinical court here after months of study, but he has no conversion certificate as a result of what appears to be a combination of rabbinical bureaucracy, infighting, and ineptitude.

Lukats is one of about 100 converts whose conversion certificates have not been signed because Rabbi Yosef Avior, head of the rabbinical court which converted him, has not sent the certificates on to the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem.

Avior said that this is because there is no one at the Chief Rabbinate who will sign the certificates, an assertion disputed by Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, head of the Chief Rabbinate's Conversion Authority.

Lukats, 35, said that he first became interested in Judaism when

he was 11 or 12 and that he knew he wanted to become a Jew when he was 15.

For the past few years, he has been visiting Israel five or six times a year. At first, he thought he could convert in Europe, but he decided he wanted to convert in Israel, where felt he he could really live a Jewish life.

It was not easy to be accepted by a conversion institute. At first, he was told that he had to know Hebrew and later, after he had attended an ulpan, he was told that his Hebrew was not good enough. What made it far easier for him, he says, is that he produced a document showing that his grandfather is memorialized by a tree on Yad Vashem's Avenue of Righteous Gentiles, honoring him for saving between 250 and 270 Jews in Hungary during the Holocaust.

Lukats finally was accepted at the Jewish Agency's Judaism Institute in Ramat Gan and studied

for eight months, completing the course in January.

The following month he passed an exam, and on March 25 he appeared before a rabbinical court headed by Avior. The ultimate responsibility for this rabbinical court is held by Rabbi Haim Druckman. The following day, Lukats was circumcised and on April 8 he was immersed in a mikve.

His story is almost identical to that of Sivan Picot, 27, who came here from France. She too had wanted to become a Jew for 15 years. She tried to convert in France, but found that it was virtually impossible. She converted at the same rabbinical court and at the same time as Lukats.

Both are here on tourist visas and find it almost impossible to find work without a work permit.

Lukats said that he had a fairly good job in a record shop, but was fired because he refused to work on

Shabbat. Now he cares for old people, a job which is so much in demand that employers are willing to overlook his lack of a legal work permit.

To work, the two have to be recognized as olim or as temporary residents, for which they must be Jews. Though both are Jews, the Interior Ministry will not recognize them as such until they have official conversion certificates endorsed by the Chief Rabbinate.

At first they waited patiently. Then, as weeks turned into months, Lukats called the Chief Rabbinate. He was told that Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, who had taken over responsibility for conversion from Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, had to study the subject. Later, someone at the Chief Rabbinate told him to send a fax, but when he called to ask about it, he was told the fax never arrived.

See CONVERSION, Page 2

UK Jewish population at 70-year low

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The Jewish population of Great Britain has dipped below 300,000 for the first time in 70 years. Current trends point to a continuing decline, according to demographic statistics to be published next month by the London-based Board of Deputies of British Jews.

There are now estimated to be 285,000 Jews in Britain - down from 308,000 a decade ago. If the

trend continues, the number is expected to fall below 200,000 within a generation.

Emigration to Israel accounts for the loss of some 800 a year, while an equal number are thought to emigrate to the U.S. A far larger erosion, however, is caused by assimilation, with the rate of intermarriage now estimated to be running at 44 percent.

Marlene Schmoor, who runs the demographic unit at the board, offered some crumbs of comfort.

"By concentrating on quantity, you lose sight of the qualitative changes," she said. "And they are not all that bad."

Britain's population is 58 million, a figure that has remained static in recent years.



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NEWS

in brief

Eitan: Threats against PM should trigger alarms

Threats and vicious wall posters directed at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Uri Elitzur, the one-time settlement activist who is now director-general of the prime minister's bureau chief, should set alarm bells ringing in the General Security Service, Science Minister Michael Eitan said at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

Directing his comments to GSS head Ami Ayalon, who briefed the cabinet on a number of internal security issues, Eitan said that since the Rabin assassination, all such threats must be taken seriously.

Turning to his fellow cabinet ministers, Eitan said: "All of us have friends who know the circles in which these people are operating. It is incumbent on us to use all our influence to delegitimize this activity."

Herb Keinson

Report: Weizman to boycott air show

President Ezer Weizman will boycott an air force celebration after the country's top military brass clipped his wings, *Yediot Aharonot* said yesterday.

Weizman, a former OC air force, wanted to co-pilot a Fuga-Magister trainer in a fly-over on Thursday in honor of the 50th anniversary celebrations. But OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliah, said Weizman, 74, is no longer physically fit to fly jets, *Yediot* said.

Other former air force chiefs – including 78-year-old Dan Tolkowsky – are flying as co-pilots in the trainers, although the planes will really be flown by instructors from the air force flying school, the paper said.

The IDF Spokesman's Office refused comment on the report. AP

Report: Iranian leader to visit UN

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami plans to travel to New York in September to address the UN General Assembly, the first such visit by an Iranian head of state since the 1979 revolution, *The Washington Post* reported yesterday.

Senior US officials told the newspaper that President Bill Clinton was scheduled to speak before the UN body on the same day, but that there were no plans for the two to meet.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in a speech on June 17, offered to explore new confidence-building steps, with the ultimate aim of reestablishing normal relations with Iran. The following day, Clinton seconded her remarks. Reuters

Spanish PM to skip Knesset visit

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon has said he will boycott the official reception for visiting Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar because he is not visiting the Knesset. "It is unacceptable for a prime minister making an official visit to boycott Israel's democratic institutions," Tichon said.

The Knesset was in recess when British Prime Minister Tony Blair made an official visit, and he did not visit the House.

Liat Collins

Sappers remove explosives from Bnei Brak

Air force sappers removed several small explosives that a tractor driver found in a container of sand in Bnei Brak yesterday. The explosives were small and generally used in exercises. The IDF is investigating. Itim

Hearing on GSS shaking case due today

Supreme Court Justice Yitzhak Englard today is due to hear a request from the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) for additional information on the use of violent shaking in General Security Service interrogations.

ACRI legal adviser Dan Yakir says the information is vital to assess how important the method is in extracting information, and to prove that it constitutes torture.

The High Court is currently hearing a petition by ACRI and other organizations demanding that the government halt interrogation techniques including violent shaking. Dan Izenberg

PA dismisses plan for int'l parley

By STEVE RODAN and news agencies

The Palestinian Authority yesterday dismissed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to hold an international conference to discuss Middle East peace as an Israeli attempt to avoid implementing the redeployment.

"First of all, he has to respect what has been done since [the 1991] Madrid [peace conference]," PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, returning from a trip to Qatar and Bahrain, told reporters in Gaza. He defined the main principle of that conference as trading land for

peace.

The Israeli proposal for another Madrid-type conference, Arafat added, is meant to torpedo the principles set in Madrid to stall the implementation of the interim accords.

Other Palestinian officials called the proposal a delaying tactic.

"It is futile for the Palestinians to respond to every new idea he comes up with, because he does not mean it and does not take it seriously," negotiator Hassan Asfour said. "The only thing he takes seriously is killing the peace process."

"If Netanyahu wants an agreement, he can have it today by say-

ing yes to the American proposal," Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said.

Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei agreed.

"We don't see any need for this conference," he said. "This is merely another element for delay."

Qurei, in an interview with PA radio, said the Oslo Accords are the only agreements between the Palestinians and Israel.

He said the principles of the 1991 Madrid conference, echoed in Oslo, are staged Israeli withdrawal and exchanging Israeli-held land for Arab peace.

Qurei warned that the Oslo

Accords will not last forever. He said in May 1999 the interim period will expire. At that point, he said, the Palestinians will act on their own.

He said the Palestinians will not withdraw their effort to obtain a UN condemnation of Israel for its plan for expanding Jerusalem's municipal jurisdiction. He said the US must support the Palestinian effort, as President Bill Clinton signed an agreement that Jerusalem is a final-status issue that cannot be the subject of changes during the interim agreement.

"The issue for us is one of life and death," Qurei said. "It is about

the change of geography and demography in Jerusalem."

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources reported that Arafat continues to face difficulties in persuading opposition movements to join the PA. The latest refusal came from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, regarded as the closest of the opposition groups to the PA. DFPLP representatives said although they don't oppose Palestinian negotiations with Israel, they cannot support the current US-mediated process. They criticized the US bridging proposals as being inadequate and a reflection of Israeli positions.

Austria to keep low Mideast profile in EU presidency

By ELIAD BECK

VIENNA – Austria, which on July 1 takes over for the first time the presidency of the European Union, does not intend to come up with any new initiative regarding the Mideast peace process, unless it is asked to do so by the parties, an Austrian official said yesterday.

Of the last three new members of the EU (Austria, Finland, and Sweden), Austria is the first to take over the presidency. This is considered the baptism of fire for Austrian EU membership.

Middle Eastern diplomats in Vienna believe that, for historical and geographical reasons, the Austrians will concentrate their efforts in trying to enlarge the union to the east (Austria is the only EU country that borders five East European countries). Being close to the potentially explosive Balkan region, say the diplomats, will bring the Austrians to deal with urgent matters concerning this part of Europe, such as the Kosovo crisis.

However, Israeli sources stress that every country that takes over the EU presidency for the first time, especially small countries, takes the job very seriously. The official program of the Austrian presidency is already full of challenges: introducing the euro, creating jobs, increasing internal security, taking more effective action on environmental protection, and the enlargement of the union.

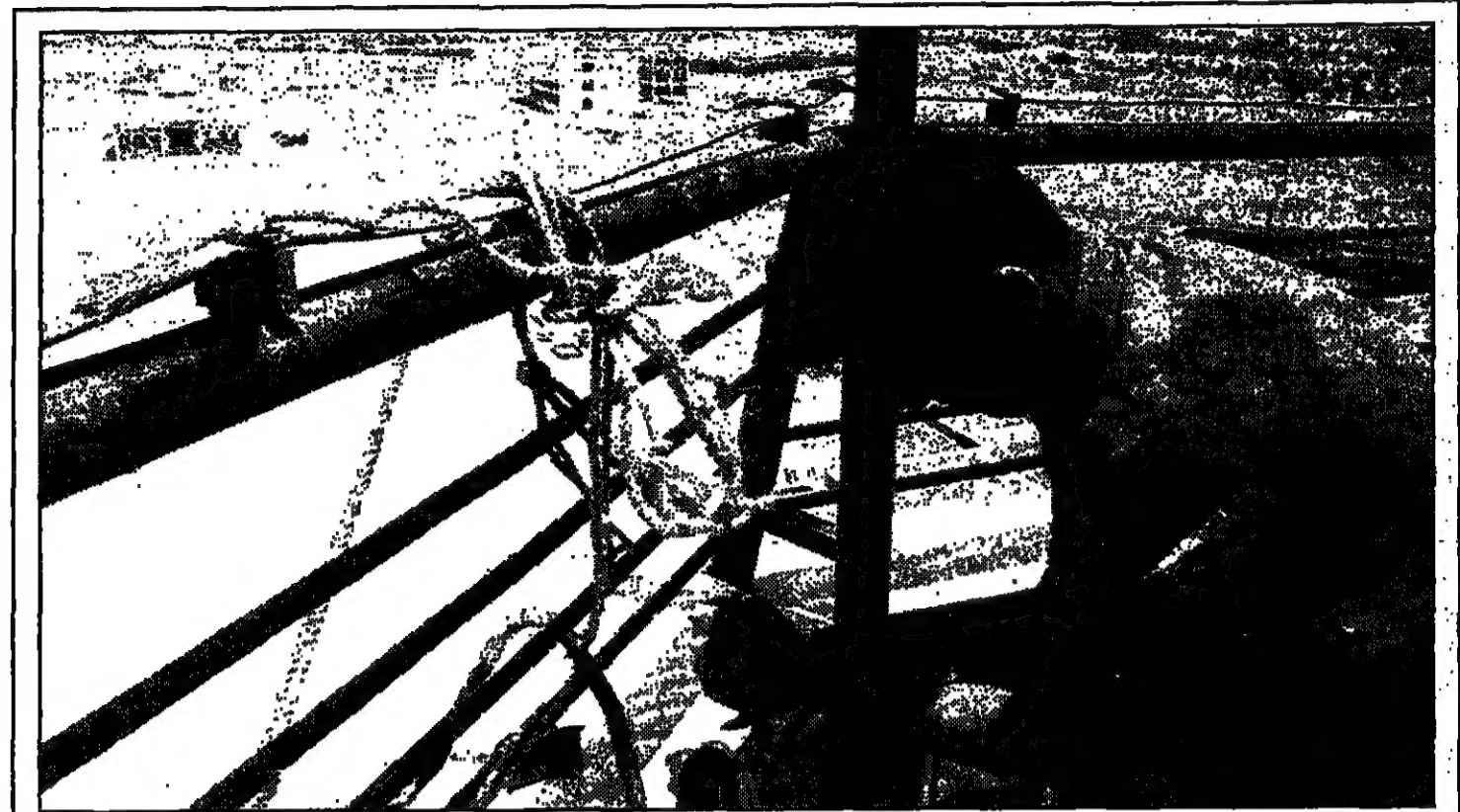
But since it is unlikely the Austrians will initiate any action concerning immediate and crucial EU issues before this September's elections in Germany, Austria might be tempted to take a lead in matters dealing with foreign policy. The official program of the Austrian presidency will be published this week, at the end of the British presidency.

An Austrian official said the Middle East would not be a focal point of the presidency, unless the peace process takes off again. "We are not sure whether an Austrian initiative [concerning the peace process] would be welcomed. There will be no special action by Austria, but we will coordinate with our EU partners and have a permanent exchange of views with all sides," he said.

"Austria has welcomed the peace process and hopes it will lead to results in the past, we have offered our services. Austria wants to help, but not to disturb. If we are asked to help, we shall do so. However, should there be a necessity, then we shall manifest ourselves."

Preparing for the European presidency, Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima paid two visits in recent months to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon in December, and then to Israel and the Palestinian Authority in February. Israeli sources speak about good chemistry between Klima and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Contacts between the Austrians and all sides in the Middle East have been kept on high level in recent months. Both Netanyahu and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat came to Vienna on official visits, and 10 days ago Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur held talks in the Austrian capital with top government officials.



Going up

A Palestinian laborer works on the tower of Yasser Arafat International Airport in Rafah yesterday. (AP)

PA intelligence chief gets VIP card back

By HERB KEINON

Israel has returned the VIP card of Brig.-Gen. Tawfik Tirawi, head of Palestinian intelligence in the West Bank, a year after stripping it from him after last year's murders of three Palestinians alleged to have sold land to Israelis, the cabinet was told yesterday.

Two of the victims, Farid Bashit and Ali Jamhour, were residents of Jerusalem and had Israeli identity cards.

The VIP card enables the holder to enter Israel from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip freely and to cross into Jordan and back with no

restrictions. The cabinet was told that the card was returned when it became apparent in court that Tirawi had nothing to do with the murders.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon took exception to the decision, saying that there is no doubt that Tirawi was involved in the kidnapping of Israeli Arabs by the Palestinian Police.

Transportation Minister Shaul Yahalom said the Palestinian Police operates in Jerusalem, and the PA has a variety of offices in the capital that Arab residents either want to use or are compelled to use. He took the Jerusalem

Municipality to task for not destroying scores of illegal homes. "If we want Jerusalem to remain united," he said, "we have to act forcefully, including closing offices and dealing with law breakers."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded by saying that the government has had success against the PA in Jerusalem, the proof being that Palestinian policemen in the city have gone underground. He said that the Israel Police presence in the eastern part of the capital has been increased significantly.

In other developments, the cabinet decided to work toward the

establishment of a community settlement just inside the Green Line in the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council area, to be temporarily named Roglit. The decision is part of a government plan to deal with settlements just inside the Green Line in an effort to increase security.

This is part of a long-held conception that civilian settlements bring people, traffic, and – as a result – security in their wake. In addition, the cabinet also decided to work toward the establishment of six new communities in the eastern part of the Lahish district and the Yair area in the Hebron Hills region.

DRAFT

Continued from Page 1

Tichon based his decision on Knesset House Rules' clauses that if a bill fails, "basically similar or identical bills" cannot be raised for six months, excluding Knesset recesses.

Tichon said Barak's bill is similar to a bill by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) which failed on December 3, 1997. Therefore Barak's bill cannot be heard before July 8, which is six months plus the spring recess period.

Barak said his proposal had been introduced and approved 45 days ago, after the Knesset's legal adviser ruled it was not similar to Cohen's bill.

Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar said yesterday that if a bill is fundamentally different from previous ones addressing the same issue, it is permissible to present it

to the Knesset less than half a year after the rejection of a bill on the issue.

Inbar said when determining whether two bills are "basically similar," he has to take into consideration whether there are significant new elements which would enable an MK who did not support the first bill to be willing to support the second one.

Tichon said that "Inbar's recommendations are not binding on me. He is only the legal adviser." This is the second time in a week that Tichon has overruled Inbar's opinion.

Tichon rejected charges he was acting on political motives and said some MKs believe Barak's bill should not come up until the winter sitting, in late October, because it is similar to Tzomet whip Eliezer Zandberg's bill that called for compulsory service for all, which failed on March 25.

Inbar said the bills by Barak and

Cohen are not the same except that both relate to the principle of restricting the number of yeshiva students who receive a draft deferment. Cohen's bill called for a quota of 250 draft deferments a year, whereas Barak's speaks of 700. Barak's bill would, unlike Cohen's, enable those who get a deferment past age 25 to be completely exempt from military service. It also would allow students to work part time in certain fields, such as teaching or research, to support themselves.

Cohen said his bill was also scheduled to be raised again this Wednesday, not next week, "and there is no reason it should not. We're talking about a pretext and being unnecessarily strict with the House Rules and it proves the haredim have taken control of the Knesset, the prime minister, and the Likud and all of them are helping 30,000 yeshiva students to dodge the draft."

Security forces catch Hamas cell planning Afula terror attack

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Security forces have arrested members of a Hamas cell who allegedly were planning to bomb Afula, the IDF said yesterday.

Five men from the Samaritan village of Mirka were remanded until the end of legal proceedings against them by the Dotan Military Court last week.

The General Security Service, assisted by the IDF and police, detained the men after two bombs

were detonated close to IDF patrols on the route linking Jenin and Nablus on May 9 and May 12, the IDF Spokesman said.

The IDF Spokesman said cell leader Imad Yasser Musa, 20, prepared the bombs used in May and recruited Ahmad Said Musa, 20, Nasim Ibrahim Musa, 20, Iya Hakim Salah Musa, 18, and Iyad Suliman Musa, 21.

During interrogation, the men admitted to using homemade guns to carry out shooting attacks over

the past year against Israeli vehicles in the vicinity of the Dotan army base. They also revealed the whereabouts of four homemade weapons and ammunition, as well as components they planned to use to prepare bombs. They also admitted setting fire to a forest near the Dotan army base in September 1996.

They had planned to set off a large bomb in Afula's restaurant area, which is close to the local police headquarters.

DEAL

Continued from Page 1

Beilin told Israel Radio the proposal, like the referendum idea, that has currently been put on hold, is just an attempt to stall.

"I think that the prime minister is willing to do everything to do nothing," he said. According to Beilin, the proposal is a way of diverting the public's attention away from the central issue – "implementing of the diplomatic process."

And even Levy said it was not clear to him what the purpose of an international conference would be.

Netanyahu deflected the criticism, saying it stems from a misunderstanding that such a conference would only deal with regional issues, such as water, environment, and trade, and not with territorial and security issues.

In an Army Radio interview, Netanyahu took Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to task for criticizing before clarifying what was being proposed. "It would be better if Egypt... would exercise caution and check matters before commenting," he said.

Netanyahu added that if Egypt really wants to help move the process forward, it would use its considerable influence in the Arab world and on the Palestinians to get them to live up to the Oslo Accords and the Hebron Agreement. Michal Yudelman contributed to this report.

CONVERSION

Continued from Page 1

Two weeks ago, Lukats went back to the Judaism Institute at Ramat Gan and was shocked to see that his file was sitting on a desk there, and not at the Chief Rabbinate.

When Lukats asked about it, he was told that Avior was taking the file to the Chief Rabbinate that day.

Last week, Avior told *The Jerusalem Post* that he still had the files of about 100 converts, who had all converted about three months ago.

He had kept the files, he said, because no one at the Chief Rabbinate would sign them. Now, he said, he learned that files are being signed, but the rabbi who has to take them to

Jerusalem is doing reserve duty. Rosen said that Lau had held up signing the conversion certificates, but he had agreed some time ago to approve all conversions carried out before he took responsibility.

Lau's new rules, Rosen said, will actually make it easier for the converts by streamlining the administrative process and making sure there is a follow-up for every convert.

Rosen says that Druckman's rabbinical court has what he euphemistically called "administrative problems."

"We did all we could, but if the conversion courts are not well organized, we can't do anything about it," Rosen said.

On Thursday, Avior promised that the files, including that of Lukats, would go to the Chief Rabbinate this week.

According to Rosen, if the Chief Rabbinate gets the files, they should go out within a day or two.

Lukats says that he still wants to stay and work here, but it is not easy.

"If they don't want us, they can tell us, 'Listen, we don't want you. Go back,'" he said.

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Due to technical problems, *The New York Times* Weekly Review does not appear this week.

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Inspecting the troops

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) accompanies Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar on a review of an honor guard yesterday at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. (AP)

A-G won't argue for Knesset body in court

By DAN IZENBERG

In a rare move, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said yesterday he would not defend the Knesset House Committee's decision to postpone his request to lift the immunity of Shas MK Aryeh Deri before the High Court of Justice.

Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar told Israel Radio he would represent the committee tomorrow

against petitions submitted by two watchdog organizations, Amitai and the Movement for Quality Government in Israel. The organizations are demanding the cancellation of the committee's decision.

The committee voted on June 23 to resume its hearings on Rubinstein's request three months after the summations of his current trial in Jerusalem District Court on charges of personal

wrongdoing.

The State Attorney's Office has drawn up an indictment including five charges of public wrongdoing during his tenure as director-general of the Interior Ministry and, subsequently, interior minister.

Rubinstein presented his request to the Knesset on April 12 and the deliberations in the House Committee began on May 20. The attorney-general tried hard to persuade the committee to lift Deri's

immunity. He responded to last week's vote by saying that the decision "did not glorify the committee."

Yesterday, Rubinstein issued a statement saying: "In the hearing regarding the Knesset House Committee's decision, the State Attorney's Office will not represent the Knesset. It is true that there is a long-standing tradition whereby the State Attorney's Office represents the Knesset, and

this tradition can be continued, since there is no conflict of interest in the overwhelming majority of cases."

"This case is one of the few that is different, since what is specifically involved is a decision of the House Committee regarding a request to lift immunity. The attorney-general does not consider it appropriate to represent that decision, given the differences of opinion."

PM, Peace Now to face off at Ateret Cohanin concert

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Tonight's concert at Sultan's Pool will be more than just a musical event, as both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and demonstrators from Peace Now have pledged to show up.

At issue is the concert's sponsors, the Ateret Cohanin and Beit Orot yeshivot, which Netanyahu applauds for their active role in reclamation of property in eastern Jerusalem and the Old City, and which Peace Now opposes for the very same reasons.

Large ads were placed in *Ha'aretz* and the Russian-language papers on Friday by Peace Now, saying: "Netanyahu and Ateret

Cohanin are terrorists against peace in Jerusalem," which brought a sharp reaction from Yossi Baumol, director of Ateret Cohanin.

"I am taken aback by the violent tone of their ad, calling our prime minister a terrorist," Baumol said. "It's incitement, to say the least, and I think that Peace Now is marginalizing itself into an extreme left-wing organization, while we are gaining public support from the center."

Peace Now plans to hold a torchlight parade starting at 7:40, from the prime minister's residence to Kikar Tzahal by City Hall, where the demonstrators will be addressed by MKs Yossi Beilin and Yossi Sarid.

"We're not demonstrating against the concert, we're demonstrating against the prime minister and Ateret Cohanin holding hands," said Haggit Yaari, spokeswoman for Peace Now. "We're against Netanyahu helping them raise more money for their fatal and deadly actions. It's very problematic - it's never happened before that a prime minister is holding hands with such an extreme right-wing group, that is destroying any way of making peace with the Palestinians, especially in Jerusalem."

The concert, entitled "Come to Zion in Song," celebrates the 50th anniversary of Israel's independence as well as 31 years of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem, and is

dedicated to a united Jerusalem.

It begins at 7 p.m., instead of the announced 8, and doors will open at 6. Netanyahu is expected to arrive around 10, and security will be extremely tight.

The star of the concert is Avraham Fried, and a sound-and-light show against the walls of the Old City and a fireworks display are planned. In addition, Ateret Cohanin student Benjamin Dill, who recently recovered from wounds suffered in the November 20 terrorist attack that killed Gabi Hirschberg, will address the audience.

A memorial ceremony in memory of students Hirschberg, Haim Kerman, and Elhanan Elitali will also take place.

Vilna'i calls for new national security doctrine

By STEVE RODAN

Israel must draft a national security doctrine that takes into account the growing missile and non-conventional threat in the Middle East, outgoing Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i said last night.

"Our national security doctrine has not been updated and does not give a response to the threats," Vilna'i told an audience at Tel Aviv University. "There are many changes in our surrounding region and these are the basis for more changes. The pace is stunning."

Vilna'i said the IDF must "update everything," including the means to deter states such as Iraq and Iran which do not share a border with Israel.

Vilna'i said Israel can no longer take anything for granted, including its technological edge. He called for greater investment in

research and development, as well as increased funding for education.

Since the peace treaty with Jordan, Iran and Iraq represent Israel's new threats, Vilna'i said, asking whether in a future war Israel should limit its goals to destroying enemy tanks and plains.

He urged a public debate to form a new national security doctrine, saying the effects would be felt both in the military and civilian sectors. In his speech, which marked the awarding of the Defense Studies Prize to OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Yomtov Samia, Vilna'i also hurled several barbs at those who decided not to appoint him chief of staff.

"Also in the army, experience is not important enough," he said, referring to the appointment of the much less experienced Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz as chief of staff.

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

By MICHAEL SELA

Still waiting

Weeks have passed and we are still waiting, together with the US, for an answer from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a defined question, writes columnist Nabil Kouri in *Al-Quds*, portraying a picture of the Palestinians' inability to do anything in face of Israeli policy.

While everything in the Palestinian-Israeli channel is frozen, Netanyahu continues to annex more lands to Jerusalem, at the same time occupying from within, allowing the settlers to build inside Arab Jerusalem, Kouri writes.

PA reshuffle

Officially accepting the resignation of the government almost a year after the Palestinian ministers collectively submitted their resignation, Arafat asked the Palestinian parliament for two more weeks to make appointments.

The issue at stake is not the appointments so much as a struggle between the previous logic of revolution and the current logic of statehood, writes Abdullah Awwad in *Al-Ayyam*.

The state issues are run according to a cocktail of a state platform and the culture of revolution, which is dominated by factionist mentality.

This state, where the narrative of revolution has almost diminished, but the narrative of statehood has not yet emerged, has opened the way for a tribal culture, according to Awwad, a culture which is dominated by efforts to achieve personal gains for leaders of interest groups.

The danger is that future state laws may clash with the non-written tribal laws, which have become the alternative to the previous political factions.

There is no surprise, therefore, that the make-up of the new government is the main public interest, compared to the indifference toward the Jewish settlement issue. Awwad comments that the problem is that the occupation state is interested in increasing the power of the tribal culture.

PA vs. PLO

The most salient issue in the debate over the make-up of the government is the relationship between the Palestinian Authority institutions and those of the PLO, writes Samih Shabib in *Al-Ayyam*. The source of the problems is, on the one hand, the boycott of parliamentary activity by some parties, mainly the Popular and the Democratic Front; on the other hand, the overlapping of some of the parliament's national duties with those of the PLO. That is why some demand that a government of technocrats be appointed, rather than according to political guidelines.

Shabib prefers postponing the government renewal for a while and opening a dialogue between Arafat and the leaders of the Popular and the Democratic Fronts, in order to reactivate the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This might have a positive reflection on the institutional conditions of the Palestinian Authority. It might also strengthen the Palestinian negotiating power, in face of Israeli stubbornness.

Thrill killing

The killing of Abu Turki by teenagers from Beit Haggi still occupies the Palestinian press. When it comes to killing Palestinians, the Israel Police always claims it was done by insane people, writes Talal Okal in *Al-Ayyam*. However, it seems that chasing Arabs as entertainment, as the boys reportedly said during their police investigation, is a matter of Israeli education. Quoting the Egyptian weekly *Al-Nasr* (which quotes the *Israel Air Force Magazine*), Awwad describes an Israeli computer war-game, which simulates Israeli forces conquering the Middle East.

Is it possible now, to see the connection between the operation of chasing the Arabs and the entertainment programs which the Israeli army sells on the market? Awwad concludes that Abu Turki was not the victim of minors, but rather a victim of socialization, which plants hatred towards the Arabs and the wish to gain power over them.

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Sarid calls Yigal Bibi a 'pariah'

Har-Shefi's state scholarship enrages Meretz

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and HAIM SHAPIRO

Meretz leaders yesterday denounced the state funding for Margalit Har-Shefi's law studies and demanded the removal of Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi from office for his reaction that Har-Shefi's crime was not especially grave. Har-Shefi was convicted of not preventing the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"There are people who have not forgotten Rabin's murder, and I call on them to sever all contact with Bibi. Excommunication is not our way, but Bibi is a pariah and cannot continue serving as a public official," Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said.

Bibi, however, denied that his ministry was funding Har-Shefi's studies. The Religious Affairs Ministry discovered yesterday that it has not been paying anything toward Har-Shefi's scholarship at Bar-Ilan University for the past year.

The issue had been raised in a Channel 2 news broadcast on Friday night.

When asked on Friday, Bibi said that as long as the university saw fit not to expel the student and the Council for Higher Education continued to pay for her studies, the ministry would continue to participate in paying for the scholarship.

Bibi said that if MKs wanted to deny rights other than freedom to those convicted of crimes, they could pass laws which related to everyone, rather than setting upon individuals.

Sarid said he was not aware there are students eligible for state tuition, while others are not. "Apparently, the law enables certain people, like the prime minister's murderer Yigal Amir, to receive state funding, while our children don't."

Sarid pointed out this was not the first time Bibi has shown contempt for a court and its ruling, and that even the attorney-general has demanded an apology for his recent attack on a court ruling.



Turkish delight

An IAF airman walks past a Turkish Air Force F-5 jet at an air base in central Israel yesterday. The plane is one of 10 in Turkey's aerobatics team, the Turkish Stars, which arrived yesterday to take part in an international flypast in honor of Israel's jubilee. The air display will take place twice - on Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. - opposite the Tel Aviv beach. Countries participating include the UK, France, Italy, Turkey, Spain, Switzerland, Chile, Czechoslovakia, the US and Ukraine. (AP)

Nazi hunter: War criminal's wife should also be tried

By ELI WOLFGELER

The wife of a recently extradited Nazi war criminal from Argentina is herself a Nazi war criminal, and should be immediately investigated, according to Dr. Efraim Zuroff, Israel director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

At a news conference last week with Victor Ramos, head of the recently formed Argentinian National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Racism, Zuroff praised Argentina for the establishment of the agency, which is also charged with uncovering Nazi war criminals residing in that country.

"If the recent decision of the Argentinian government to uncover and prosecute the Nazi war criminals... will be implemented in a serious manner... it could be the most significant development in the area of Nazi-hunting in the past two decades," Zuroff said.

He cited the case of Dinko Sakic, who served on the staff of the Jasenovac and Srebrenica concentration camps in Croatia.

Sakic's wife, Zuroff said, was

"on the staff of those camps, and according to information recently received, played an active role in the persecution and murder of camp inmates."

Ramos said his agency, INADY, is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior and was established six months ago.

It is authorized to uncover and bring to trial Nazi war criminals, combat racism and discrimination; and develop various initiatives to help integrate various religious, ethnic, and cultural groups into Argentinian society.

Ramos said his agency had entered into a cooperative agreement with the Wiesenthal Center to aid in helping identify and track down former Nazi war criminals.

"We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Wiesenthal Center for its assistance in collecting documents and evidence regarding Nada Sakic, the wife of Nazi war criminal Dinko Sakic, who was recently extradited to Croatia," Ramos said. "After reading the horrifying testimonies, we believe that it is extremely likely that she herself was a Nazi war criminal."

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Ethiopian immigrants accuse gov't of discrimination in education

By GIL HOFFMAN

Labor MK Adisu Massala yesterday accused the prime minister and the Education Ministry of neglecting the educational needs of the Ethiopian community.

"Only strong action from the prime minister himself can stop the regression of Ethiopian youth," Massala said.

"He has to take it in his hands right now, or more of the younger generation will turn to crime and the whole country will feel the consequences."

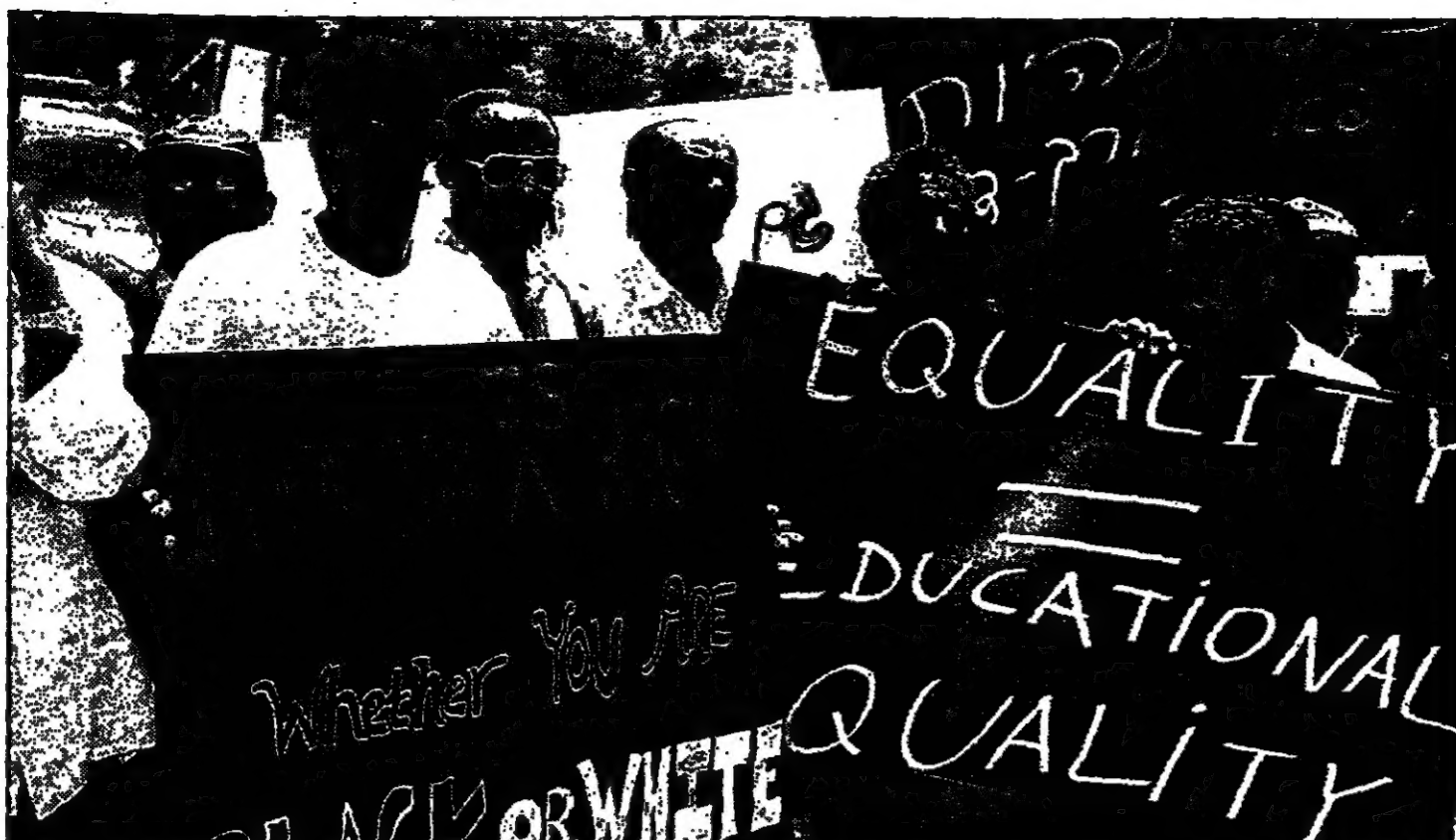
He was speaking at a rally of some 200 Ethiopian immigrants opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

Leaders of organizations of Ethiopian immigrants spoke about the necessity for additional educational programs to more thoroughly integrate their community's children into the school system.

Massala said existing educational programs gear them toward lower educational tracks, limiting their potential. He accused several of the country's universities and the psychometric examination of discrimination.

Some 2,000 Ethiopian children have already dropped out of public schools and another 10 percent are in danger, leading to a 300 percent increase in crime among Ethiopian youth, according to flyers distributed at the rally.

Massala is to meet with Education Minister Yitzhak Levy next week, but said that when he requested a meeting with Prime



Community activists demand equal educational opportunities for Ethiopian immigrants at a protest opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday.

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he was told to wait until after the second pullback from the West Bank. The flyers distributed at the rally also said that only 17 percent of Ethiopian high school pupils

earn matriculation certificates, compared with 38.7 percent of the general population. The Education Ministry issued a statement in response putting the number of Ethiopian pupils earning

matriculation certificates at 23 percent in 1996.

The ministry also said several new programs are in the works for the next school year to help Ethiopian pupils, including one

designed to decrease the dropout rate.

The progress and success of pupils from Ethiopia are a high priority for the ministry, the statement said.

Nationwide search for bone-marrow donor

By JUDY SEGEL

Looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack, Magen David Adom and friends of Keren Ronnen-Rosenberg will today search for a bone-marrow donor to save the 43-year-old woman's life from leukemia.

In all the worldwide registries of bone-marrow types, no appropriate donor has yet been found for Ronnen-Rosenberg, who is married and the mother of five- and 14-year-old sons, and a Shenkar College weaving teacher.

Now being treated at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York, Ronnen-Rosenberg — the daughter of Jerusalem Post cartoonist and art editor Meir Ronnen — must receive a bone-marrow donation within a couple of weeks.

Potential donors should be aged 18 to 55 and of Ashkenazi background, but anyone who wants to be listed in the Israeli database as a potential donor can also give a small sample of blood. MDA stations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, as well as stations in 25 smaller cities in towns, will collect samples today between 3 and 8 p.m.

Call 04-8373220 for more information and to donate funds for the effort.

The blood samples will be rushed to Los Angeles for immediate tissue typing to find a suitable donor.

Prof. Chaim Brautbar, head of the tissue-typing unit at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Karem, said he would "warmly

endorse" any effort to include large numbers of Israelis in the database as a matter of routine, instead of desperately searching for matches in individual cases.

Today, there are 15,000 individuals in the database, and the number of Jews — who are more likely to provide suitable genetic matches to other Jews — in worldwide databases is negligible. Brautbar said it is also difficult to find suitable bone-marrow donors for Arabs and other minorities.

Donated bone-marrow is usually removed under local anesthetic from a hip bone, requiring a day's hospitalization and causing some temporary discomfort. In some cases, stem cells can be removed from the blood instead of the bone, but the donor must undergo five injections of growth factors and feel temporary flu symptoms.

Prof. Shimon Slavin, head of the bone-marrow transplantation unit at Hadassah, said he has 25 patients with perfectly matched donors who are still waiting for a bone-marrow transplant because of the lack of beds in his unit. Funding an enlarged facility with more trained staff will cure many more people, he added.

Dr. Boaz Lev, the Health Ministry's deputy director-general, said a special committee has in principle endorsed the idea of expanding the bone-marrow database and a tender will be issued to determine who will coordinate the effort. The cost per test is \$30 to \$40, but the price would decline with more persons tested; a source of funding has yet to be found.

Jordan Valley farmers tell MKs: We need more Thai workers

By LIAT COLLINS

Members of the Knesset Committee on Foreign Workers who toured the Jordan Valley yesterday expected to hear more about the problems of the Thai laborers.

But the focus early on diverted to the difficulties of the farmers and their warnings that attempts to try to replace foreign workers with Palestinians would cause the collapse of local agriculture.

Committee chairman Ophir Pines (Labor) and Ze'ev Boim (Likud) both called for preference to be given to Palestinian workers, while Jordan Valley Regional Council head David Levy said cutting quotas of foreign workers in agriculture would cause "a fatal blow to the communities in the region."

There are some 550 foreign workers in the Jordan Valley, most of them Thai.

At Moshav Netiv Hagdud, Doron Resnick showed the MKs his computerized hothouses for peppers for export and said that since the Oslo Accords, he has not been able to employ

Palestinians. "They started behaving as if they owned the place, and there were cases of sabotage and theft," he said. "They were my friends by day and my enemies by night."

There were also incidents in the area in which employers were attacked by their Palestinian workers, he said.

Palestinians work alongside Thais at Yoav Hochberg's vineyard at Moshav Petzel. Anwar Shati, a Palestinian worker, said relations between the two groups are good.

"I don't mind anyone working who has to feed a family, Thais or Russians or anyone," Shati said. Hochberg said all attempts at employing Israelis had failed. He said he feared what would happen in May next year when the Palestinians intend declaring an independent state, "just before the harvest season."

Pines criticized the policy at Moshav Na'ama's herb industry of employing Thais who work more than a 12-hour day, with a break in the middle, seven days a week.

Labor, Likud whips back WIZO anti-abuse bill

By NOAH SHRETT

"While you're walking down the street, look at every woman that passes by. One in seven is being abused by her husband," Labor whip MK Elie Goldschmidt yesterday told a WIZO press conference, also attended by his Likud counterpart, MK Meir Shetreet.

WIZO chairwoman Thelma Neri noted that "only 17 percent of [battered] women register complaints against their husbands with the police." She also stated that "over 200,000 women are known to have been abused and 600,000 children are known to live in abusive families."

By having both MKs present, WIZO sought to stress the need to cross party lines to pass a bill to expedite the sentencing of abusive spouses. The bill would require that abusive husbands be indicted within seven days and be tried immediately.

Explaining the reasoning behind the bill, WIZO legal adviser Irit Rosenberg said, "It takes several months, at this point, to get an indictment. We have to get the cases into court while they are still 'hot'... otherwise we can be of little help."

Shetreet said he agrees with the proposal, because "the effect is much more tangible for the judge when he can see the actual signs of abuse." He also lamented the leniency extended to abusive husbands, saying in general, husbands sentenced for attempted murder receive half the maximum sentence; those sentenced for general abuse receive 20 percent of the maximum; and most sexual offenders receive 15% of the maximum.

Shetreet also said penalties should be stiffer, because men often return from jail and increase their abuse towards their wives.

He said many women do not wish to come forward, because they fear the retribution of their husbands and question whether the law will really protect them.

Goldschmidt added that, not only do women fear their husbands' retribution, but they also worry, who will support their family and feel a sense of embarrassment if their husbands are in jail.

"Wife abuse," said Shetreet, "is not only a crime against the wife, it is a crime against the family. It becomes a cultural phenomenon that continues from generation to generation, which must be stopped."

Nazareth man attacks wife with ax

Several men were arrested in domestic violence cases over the weekend. In Nazareth, a 45-year-old man was arrested Saturday night after he attacked his wife with an ax. The couple's son intervened before she was injured. The woman told police that her husband had beaten her several times before.

A 56-year-old Rishon LeZion man was arrested after his wife complained to police that he beat her. The man is an alcoholic.

In Ness Ziona, a 34-year-old man was arrested Saturday night after he beat his girlfriend. When police arrived, they found a knife on the man.

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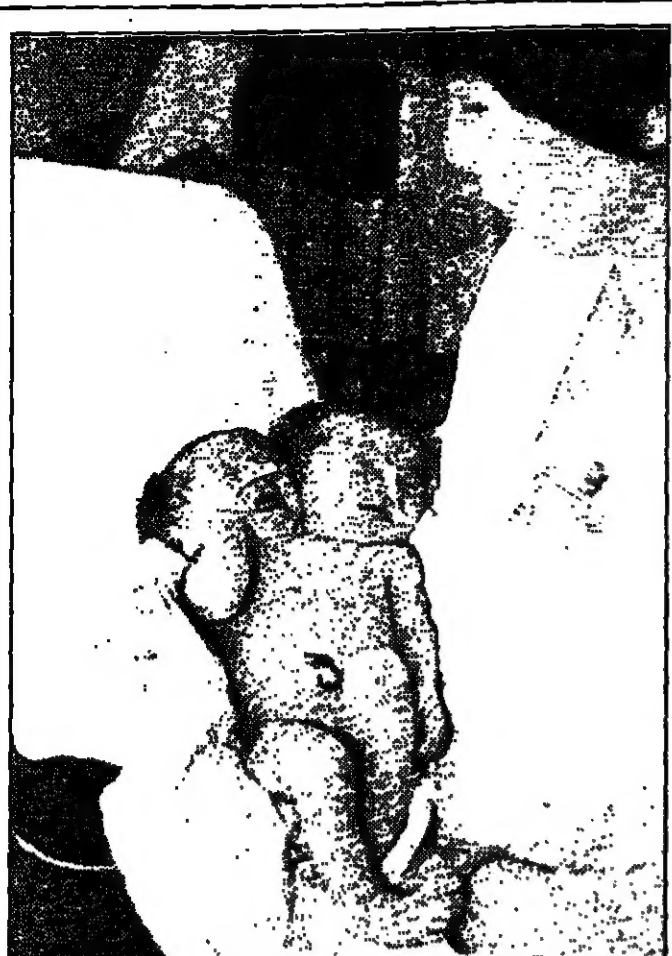
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Two-headed baby

A nurse at Children's Hospital in Ho Chi Minh city on Saturday holds a baby girl born last Monday in the Mekong Delta with two heads. Doctors say the baby, in intensive care with heart complications, has two spines, two lungs, and two hearts, but one hip bone and one reproductive organ.

In another slap at Chinese government

Clinton calls for religious freedom in speech at Beijing church

By LAURENCE MCGILLIAN

BEIJING (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton took to a Beijing pulpit yesterday to send a message on religious freedom, a day after condemning the Tiananmen Square massacre before a Chinese television audience of millions.

From a simple wooden lectern in a grey-brick Protestant church, Clinton told several thousand believers that "Chinese and Americans are brothers and sisters as children of God."

In a country where Protestant and Catholic clergy - as well as Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns - are jailed and harassed for worshipping outside the state-approved church system, Clinton's trip to the back-alley church with his wife Hillary sent a symbolic message.

Later, the first couple, with daughter Chelsea, toured the Forbidden City, a maze of palaces and courtyards behind vermilion walls that was home to the ancient emperors, and then rode a cable car up to the Great Wall of China.

Beijing was buzzing yesterday with a debate on the debate - Saturday's extraordinary on-air exchange between Clinton and his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin on hot-button topics from the Tiananmen Square massacre to Tibet.

The White House was elated, clearly believing the broadcasting milestone - the first time Chinese citizens had seen their leader go head-to-head in public with a foreign visitor - had overtaken the controversy over Clinton's earlier



A Chinese student in Beijing yesterday reads the 'Youth Daily' newspaper, featuring a photo of Presidents Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin in Xian last week. In a country where clergy are routinely harassed, Clinton's trip to a church yesterday sent a symbolic message.

appearance at a red carpet welcome on Tiananmen Square.

Clinton's decision to go to the square and review soldiers from the People's Liberation Army had threatened to become the searing image of his visit. Instead, it was

the pictures of Clinton and Jiang thrashing out their differences before the biggest television audience on earth.

Some analysts saw the broadcast as a Chinese gift to Clinton to make up for his bowing to their terms for

a welcome on the square to help the world forget the massacre of democracy activists there in 1989.

In the post-summit news conference, the US president held forth to the Chinese nation on human rights. Referring to Tiananmen, he said

"the use of force and the tragic loss of life was wrong."

Jiang fired back that the action had ensured China's stability, making quite clear he had no regrets about using guns and tanks to protect communist rule.

Thousands attend slain Algerian singer's burial

By ABDELMALEK TOUATI

TAOURIRT MOUSSA, Algeria (Reuters) - Thousands of grim and angry Algerian Berbers attended yesterday's burial of slain singer Loumes Matoub in the garden of his home in a mountain village.

Peasants joined crowds of city dwellers in the village of Taourirt Moussa, 90 km. east of the capital, to pay final tribute to Matoub, 42, who was gunned down in an ambush last Thursday.

The bitter crowd shouted, "Pouvoir (authorities, assassins)!" at an army helicopter hovering around the gathering to protect mourners against possible Moslem rebel attacks, witnesses said.

Mourners were angry with the government of President Liamine Zeroual for what they considered a lack of effort to protect Matoub, who was a critic of both the Algerian authorities and Moslem guerrillas.

Matoub was a staunch anti-Islamist, vocal supporter of the Berber cause, and outspoken democrat whose songs frequently criticized Algerian officialdom.

Matoub's killing sparked riots on Friday and Saturday in Tizi Ouzou, capital of the Berber-dominated northeastern Kabylie region, and in neighboring towns. At least two young demonstrators were killed in Tizi Ouzou and Sidi Aich in Bejaia province as protesters stoned anti-riot police.

African leaders ponder globalization

By GREG CALHOUN

CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland (Reuters) - African leaders at a business forum in Switzerland said on Saturday there was a growing awareness on the continent that globalization would be the name of the game in the future and they feared they would be left out.

"As Africans we feel globaliza-

tion is a phenomenon we have to address," Blaise Compaore, president of Burkina Faso, said at this Swiss Alpine resort.

This year's session focuses on Africa. Previously, the international forum focused on investment in eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, including Central Asia, north Africa and the Middle East.

African leaders and representatives from supranational lending agencies attending this year's forum said there has been an increasing acknowledgement of the need for greater economic transparency, better infrastructures and economic harmonization in Africa.

"Africa is becoming aware of its position in the world... it wants to play the role that it played in the past," Ivory Coast Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said in a speech.

But the leaders also expressed concern over the fact that progress has been slow and sufficient levels of essential private sector investment have not yet materialized.

"Progress in regional cooperation has been modest... the progress has not yet been what we expected," Omar Kabbaj, president of the African Development Bank, told

the forum. He noted some progress in lowering tariff barriers and said gains have been made in West Africa in the areas of monetary cooperation and trade coordination.

But to have any success at conquering poverty and becoming competitive enough to take part in the globalization trend, the continent's economic growth rate must rise from its current level of 3-4 percent to at least 8%, the delegates said.

"We need to be looking at least 8% (economic growth) if Africa is to pass on the benefits of growth to the entire population," Iain Christie, the World Bank sector leader for Africa said.

Christie said liberalization of its telecommunications sector and more emphasis on international trade, which was declining, were essential for the African continent.

"While trade is increasing in absolute terms it has declined in relative terms in the past 20 years so there is cause for concern," he said.

He also said that while Africa was the most important continent for the World Bank these days, with only 3% of worldwide investment flows entering the region, more capital was a must.

US sees role for Kosovo rebels

CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland (Reuters) - Leaders of ethnic Albanian rebels in the Serbian province of Kosovo should be given a legitimate role in a peace settlement if they prove they can control their fighters, on the ground, chief US peace negotiator for Kosovo, Richard Holbrooke, told Reuters Television yesterday.

On the sidelines of a business forum here that US officials held their first formal contacts with Kosovo Liberation Army leaders on Friday.

If the rebel leaders prove they have influence over the KLA fighters, "then I think they have a legitimate role in the process," he said.

Holbrooke was responding to a question on whether the start of official US contacts with KLA leaders means Washington has decided any political solution requires the guerrillas' participation in view of their significant military gains on the ground, estimated to amount to one-third of Kosovo's territory.

"These contacts were designed to find out if the people with whom the American officials met were in fact people who have the ability to influence and control all

the people with the weapons," said Holbrooke, recently named as the new US ambassador to the UN.

"If they can show that they actually have influence over the fighting in Kosovo, fighting which we wish to stop, then I think they have a legitimate role in the process. But in no way should these contacts be read as undermining (Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim) Rugova," he said.

The first official contact was on Friday, somewhere in Western Europe, between US special envoy for former Yugoslavia Robert Gelbard and unidentified KLA officials. "The question of who sits at the table for the Kosovo Albanians is one that must be resolved through private contacts," Holbrooke said.

Meanwhile, Kosovo's embattled Serbs yesterday marked Serbia's defeat at the hands of the Turks 609 years ago, but few bothered to attend civil and religious services laid on for the occasion.

At Kosovo Polje, the Field of Blackbirds where medieval Serbia was vanquished in 1389 and where a million Serbs gathered on June 28 nine years ago to thrill to the martial drumbeat of Serbian nationalism, perhaps 100 were in attendance.

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Is your nature film better than mine?

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Tragic news for dedicated show-biz fans and US newsmen: a cause for celebration for nature lovers and world culture vultures.

Tomorrow Israeli viewers will have to bid farewell to the NBC (Europe) SuperChannel — to the wisecracks of late-night talk show host Leno, the perkiness of *Today Show* morning anchors Katie Couric and Matt Lauer, and the political mud wrestling of the panelists of *The McLaughlin Group*.

These familiar sounds of American popular culture will soon be replaced by the chirping of endangered flocks of South American birds, or the chanting of far-flung African tribes. However, local cable companies have not finally decided precisely which documentary channel to choose, even as the SuperChannel fades from the airwaves.

A heated battle is still on between two international heavyweights — The Discovery Channel and National Geographic — as to who will occupy the vacated slot. Both companies and their local representatives have spent the past few weeks running concerted campaigns to promote their cause, and trumpet their relative superiority to the public, hoping that they will influence the selection of the cable company consortium.

National Geographic, relatively new to the field of broadcasting, would be a natural choice for several reasons. First of all, NBC is already teaming up with National Geographic in broadcasting to a number of other European countries: Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Hungary and Sweden. The European package

they are offering includes a continuation of CNBC business news during the morning, and National Geographic in the afternoon and evening. (Countries in which there is a significant German speaking population — Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland and the Czech Republic — will receive a mixture of the current NBC SuperChannel programming and German entertainment shows.)

However, as Israeli cable providers have not shown enthusiasm for CNBC business news component of the new channel, the company may be flexible in adapting to local needs and eliminate the business news, says National Geographic representative John Pruzanski. Pruzanski is manager of media activity at Hed Artzi, a recording and publishing company partially owned by *Ma'ariv*.

Indeed, not only is the eager National Geographic media division offering its content at a low price, they are promising, beginning in September, to offer a third of their programming complete with Hebrew subtitles and to provide six hours of locally-produced programming for distribution internationally, as well as programs "with local content on a local level," for domestic consumption.

The timing, for Hed Artzi, could not be more ideal, as they have just launched a Hebrew edition of *National Geographic* magazine in partnership with the international company.

"There's such a love affair between National Geographic and Israel that I'm sure this is what the customers themselves would choose," contends Pruzanski. "Discovery cannot match Hed Artzi which knows Israel, knows the market, and knows the cus-

tomers... I'm feeling pretty good about our chances because we are offering so much in Hebrew at a very competitive rate, and the recognition of the brand name in Israel is so high."

Pruzanski noted proudly that the first printing of the Hebrew magazine sold out at 25,000 copies and the second printing of 20,000 is selling briskly, and that in their first two weeks of offering subscriptions, 8,000 households signed up. However, The Discovery Channel, represented locally by businessman Avner Zussman's Direct Satellite Television (DST) company, is not to be dismissed lightly. Discovery is indisputably the veteran premiere documentary channel in the United States. Israelis are familiar with their product, which was broadcast for an extended period of time on the local documentary channel, Channel 8, before their cooperation agreement expired and Discovery decided to seek its own Israeli channel.

In an elaborate public presentation, last week, Discovery made much of the fact that their programming covers a far broader range of topics than their rival. "Our real-world programming extends into five genres, we have nature and world culture like National Geographic, but we also cover every field of science and technology, history and human adventure," says DST spokesperson Susan Gopstein.

Whichever company wins the battle, there will be additional fallout from the channel-switching, all of which will leave some groups happy and others disappointed. In order to accommodate those unhappy with losing a dose of American culture with the departure of the SuperChannel, the cable



This baby is a heart-stealer in any nature film.

operators are replacing Star Plus, which offers a mixed diet of Indian and American programming with Star World, which serves up a more steady schedule of current US hits like *NYPD Blue* and *Chicago Hope*.

This comes as a blow to the thousands of viewers of Indian descent

who enjoyed the Hindi programming on Star Plus. The bright spot on the horizon for all — for those who will miss Leno's nightly shots at President Clinton, for those who will mourn the loss of Hindi programming, and for whichever documentary company National Geographic or Discovery loses the

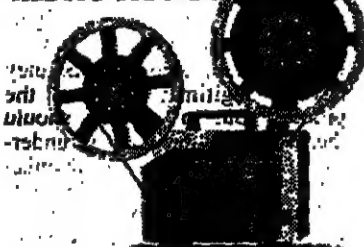
contest for the NBC slot, is the imminent arrival of DBS — Direct Broadcast Satellite.

When this system of receiving television signals is established, and the Communications Ministry has already issued the prerequisites for prospective DBS providers, the number of channels will increase

dramatically. With the number of channels no longer limited by the cable companies, it is likely that by the beginning of 1999, DBS will be in place, and dedicated couch potatoes will be able to receive a far wider selection of broadcasts — sports, nature, show-biz and news — from around the world.

Great expectations disappointed

Movie Reviews



By Adina Hoffman

Alfonso Cuarón's *Great Expectations* is a swank piece of modern-dress inanity that claims to be based on the classic novel, though in fact seems more like a feature-length ad for a new perfume called l'eau

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Directed by Alfonso Cuarón. Screenplay by Mitch Glazer. Based on the novel by Charles Dickens. Hebrew title: *Tikot Gedolot*. 111 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance very strongly advised. With Ethan Hawke, Gwyneth Paltrow, Anne Bancroft, Robert De Niro and Chris Cooper.

de Dickens. "Let desire be your destiny" the film poster urges us, above a pouty shot of Gwyneth Paltrow in the buff. And the movie itself—relocated from dreary English marsh country to the sun-drenched Florida Keys — more or less follows outlandish suit by turning the complicated class and sexual tensions of the original into fodder for a music video.

The picture is a typical attempt by contemporary TV-fed filmmakers to "free" the book from its "stifling" Victorian context: add a little bare skin and slang, the thinking goes, and any nineteenth-century Bildungsroman can become instantly relevant to today's fashion-conscious teens. Needless to say, this approach condescends both to the novel and the audience, who might all be better off without the help of gimmicks. Although one assumes that Cuarón and screenwriter Mitch Glazer take liberties in order to make the story accessible to younger viewers, their petting-party version of the novel has a funny way of reducing a rich and intricate work to the sum of its jerky plot twists.

While the movie's limitations are perfectly clear from the dumbed-down, faux-literary narration that accompanies the earlier scenes ("I'm not gonna tell the story as it happened. I'm gonna tell it the way I remember it"), for a brief while a certain inverse logic holds, and the choice of this bright, tropical setting seems promising in its audacity. The gulls, surf and sand that surround the Pip character, Finn, are literally a world away from the gray backdrop of the book and of



Gwyneth Paltrow as the slinky grown-up Estella.

David Lean's canonical movie version. With other sharp modern adaptations of classics in mind, like Amy Heckerling's *Clueless*, an inspired attempt to understand the social hierarchy of a Beverly Hills high school on Jane Austen's terms, we wait to learn the reason for this bold movement of the action toward the equator.

But it turns out that there is no real reason — or none that I could see, aside from the director's rather self-conscious need to prove just how far he can stretch the frame of the story. If nothing else, he does manage to tell a tale that approximates in its unfolding the shape of Dickens's own (although it takes a singularly dumber grasp of the writer's intentions to think that by regurgitating the melodramatic outline of the novel one captures all that it is "about").

Like Pip, Finn (Jeremy James Kissner) is a working-class orphan who lives with his sister and her husband (Chris Cooper, in the film's only convincing performance) and who is assaulted in the opening scene by an escaped

convict (Robert De Niro) whom he then helps try to flee. Later, he's befriended by a rich and batty old maid (hammy Anne Bancroft) who was jilted at the altar years before, lives with the moldering remains of her wedding feast, and means to wreak vengeance on the entire male sex through the icy person of her beautiful young ward, Estella (Raquel Beaudene).

As he demonstrates in *A Little Princess*, his lovely adaptation of the Frances Hodgson Burnett book, Cuarón works preciously but well with children and jewel-box sets. This knack helps him through the early bits in the tumble-down mansion but leaves him floundering once Estella and Finn evolve into the gloriously bronzed adult forms of Paltrow and Ethan Hawke.

The world's most popular movie is back.

New Line Cinema presented *Gone With the Wind* in about 250 theaters, bringing digitally reproduced sound, Technicolor's new dye-transfer printing process and the original screen dimensions to a generation that has seen the 1939 classic only on television or video.

Why has *GWTW* captured generations of moviegoers?

"I think it's one of the two most romantic films ever made; the other is obviously *Casablanca*," says Charles Champlin, film critic of the *Los Angeles Times*.

"The making of *Gone With the Wind* became as storied as the book itself.

When Margaret Mitchell's novel was published in 1936, producer David O. Selznick received a copy from his New York literary scout, Kay Brown. She sent along a 25-page synopsis and urged him to buy the film rights.

Reluctant at first, Selznick was persuaded to offer \$50,000. It was accepted, and his decision was soon vindicated.

GWTW sold a million copies at \$3 apiece within six months. In a year, it had sold 1,690,000 copies.

The Search for Scarlett O'Hara was launched with thousands of young women throughout the country. Norma Shearer, Katharine Hepburn, Paulette Goddard and other stars were considered for Scarlett.

Even Lucille Ball auditioned. Millions of readers agreed that only Clark Gable could play Rhett Butler. But Gable belonged to MGM, and Selznick did not want to owe his father-in-law, Louis B. Mayer, for Gable's services.

But in the end he was forced to deal with Mayer. MGM would lead Gable and supply half of the \$2.5 million budget in return for rights to release the film.

As production neared, Selznick had cast every role except Scarlett.

To acquire space for the outdoor set of Tara, many of the studio's old sets, including King Kong's lair, had to be dismantled.

The suggestion was made to use them as a bonfire for longshots of the burning of Atlanta. Selznick invited famous friends to witness the spectacle.

As the fire lit up much of suburban Culver City, Selznick felt a tug at his sleeve.

"It was his brother Myron, accompanied by a slender young beauty. He said, 'Dave, I want you to meet Scarlett O'Hara.'"

The young woman was British actress Vivien Leigh.

As principal filming started on Jan. 26, 1939, the private lives of both Leigh and Gable were in turmoil. She was enmeshed in scandal because of her flaming romance with Laurence Olivier; both were married to other people. Gable was faced with a huge settlement to divorce his second wife and marry Carole Lombard.

Gable's problems were more than marital. He rebelled at being directed by George Cukor and believed that the famed "woman's director" was tilting the film to Leigh and de Havilland.

Selznick solved the impasse by firing Cukor and hiring a Gable favorite, Victor Fleming.

The tall, commanding, part-Indian Fleming took immediate charge. "I'm going to make this picture a melodrama," he announced.

The high-strung Fleming became frazzled by pressures from Selznick, the parade of writers with script changes, the responsibility of huge crowd scenes and dealing with a gallery of temperamental actors — especially Vivien Leigh, whose nerves were strained by overwork and the long schedule.

As the scene of Scarlett's final break with Rhett approached, the actress cried, "I can't do this scene! This woman is a terrible bitch!"

Fleming exploded at Leigh. He rolled up his script, told her where to put it, threw it at her feet, and stomped off the set.

He returned to *GWTW*, but the pressure continued, and he seemed on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Finally, on July 1, 1939, *Gone With the Wind* completed photography.

(AP)

Scarlett O'Hara back on screen

Jazz and the jubilee

By HELEN KAYE

This year's Red Sea Jazz Festival in Eilat from August 24 to 27 celebrates a double jubilee — Israel's and the city. Well, almost.

Eilat, (known as Umm Rashrash in those days) was captured in 1949. Not that there was anything much to capture, but there was this magnificent bay...

Eilat Port basically died when Israel made peace with Egypt in 1979, but 12 years ago it became the venue for the jazz festival which has been there ever since.

This year's line up of international jazz greats features special jubilee programs including Michael Brecker, Dave Liebman and Joe Lovano in *Sax Summit* and three *Generations of Petrucciannis* with pianist Michel (he played here in 1993), papa Tony on guitar and brother Louis on bass.

After 20 years guitarist Larry Coryell's 11th House ensemble will reunite in Eilat with Randy Brecker on trumpet, Richard Bona, bass and drummer Alphonse Mouzon; the Dukes of Dixieland are celebrating their own 50th, and UK vocal-ist Georgie Fame joins Israel's



Pianist Michel Petruccianni

Yaron Gutfreid Trio. Other acts include US trombonist Steve Turre, who also plays on seashells, the Jimmy McGriff — Hank Crawford Quartet and the Diana Krall Trio.

Of course there will be the usual after-hours jam sessions at the Riviera Hotel pool, master classes and performances by yet-to-be-named established and up-and-coming local jazz musicians.

Ticket prices and packages range from approximately NIS 70 for a concert by a local act to NIS 120 for an import (provided it's part of a package deal of seven concerts). Festival passes and single tickets are also available.

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Directed by Omri Nitzan
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Rebellion as a family trait. The play depicts three generations of rebels in one Israeli family: the son, his mother and his grandmother. Each rebels in their own way in the period in which they live. The Lehi underground movement of the forties, a radical Left movement in the sixties, through an existential and apolitical youthful rebellion in the nineties. In this way, too, the playwright seeks to examine Israeli secular identity through a family story.

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The '70s UN revisited

Back in the 1970s, the United Nations was the world's favorite forum for bashing and condemning Israel. At one point, resolutions devoted to censuring Israel took up so much of the UN's affiliated organizations' time that a visitor from another planet might have been forgiven for getting the notion that all the world's problems stemmed solely from the actions of the government of Israel.

The UN, thankfully, has changed along with the global transformations which swept the world over the past two decades, including the collapse of Communist regimes, the disappearance of the Arab "oil weapon" and the blossoming of a process of democratization in various places. Resolutions condemning Israel are no longer an almost daily routine, and the country's ambassador to the UN does not need to work as if under siege.

It is thus dismaying to see the Security Council preparing this week to resurrect the atmosphere of the Seventies, by debating a harsh resolution castigating the cabinet's adoption of a plan to expand Jerusalem's borders. This is to be followed next week with debate over another sensitive subject: upgrading the status of the PLO at the UN to one almost equivalent to a state.

The history of the Middle East peace process indicates that significant progress has been made only through direct talks between the relevant parties, along with United States mediation. The UN's contribution has mostly been negative, its resolutions serving only to rouse defensive Israeli sentiments against a world apparently hostile to any independent course of action on its part. The Oslo process is at a delicate stage now, with negotiations on the second redeployment in their end-game and permanent-status talks looming ever closer. The return of the UN to its old role as a clearing-house for condemnations of Israel can only be counterproductive.

No fewer than 60 nations are expected to take part in the Security Council debate on Jerusalem, according to the Israeli Mission to the UN, which means the proceedings will likely run from Tuesday to Thursday. Such a high-profile debate involving so many nations, most of which have no direct connection at all to Jerusalem, is quite an over-reaction to a plan that mostly involves territory fully recognized as Israeli, and in any event has a number of hurdles still to cross before becoming a reality.

For one thing, the Jerusalem expansion plan approved by the cabinet does not involve the

annexation of any West Bank territory. All of the new territory it would add to the jurisdiction of Jerusalem's City Hall is located to the west of the municipal boundaries, and thus does not impinge on issues to be negotiated in the permanent-status talks. Judging from a number of statements made abroad, this point does not seem to be clear to many of the participants in the UN debate.

The other controversial part of the plan is the "umbrella municipality" it proposes establishing over a number of settlements in the vicinity of Jerusalem. It has been argued that there is a hidden agenda involved that will lead to de facto annexation of West Bank settlements, by blurring the differences between them and Israel proper. But the items which are to be dealt with by the proposed umbrella municipality are very local in their nature, such as urban planning, sewage, and fire-brigade cooperation.

The fact that the Jerusalem expansion plan is still far from being implemented should also be taken into account. Various parts of the plan are stridently opposed by a number of local interest groups. The residents of independent townships that would be swallowed up by Jerusalem under the plan are protesting so vociferously that Interior Minister Eli Shais is reportedly reconsidering that aspect of the plan. The extent to which the heads of nearby settlements will cooperate with the proposed umbrella municipality, which will technically subordinate them to Mayor Ehud Olmert, remains to be seen. Environmentalist groups are agitated at what they perceive as a plan to cover vast areas of green forest to the west of Jerusalem with asphalt and construction sites. All in all, a number of High Court petitions are expected to slow down implementation of the plan considerably, even assuming a budgetary source for implementation can be found.

The other controversial item up for debate at the UN, upgrading the status of the PLO, has now been delayed until July 7, due to pressure from the US. There would seem to be some contradiction in the actions of the UN: on the one hand it opposes changes in Jerusalem on the grounds this could prejudice the permanent-status talks; on the other it considers recognizing the PLO as almost a member state, thereby prejudicing questions on the status of the future Palestinian entity, which is also a final-status item. The UN would do well to leave these matters to direct negotiations between the parties, instead of meddling in them to no productive end.

Swiss justice

MOSHE SANBAR

There is nothing fair about an agreement negotiated under false pretenses. Yet the Swiss government, in its self-proclaimed search for justice on the issue of World War II assets, sees no reason to correct the injustice of the Washington Agreement of 1946 in which the Allies waived financial claims against Switzerland in exchange for a payment of Sfr. 250 million.

This agreement might have seemed fair after the war, based on Swiss revelations about quantities of looted gold in their possession. But new evidence — revealed by the Swiss themselves — indicates that the Washington Agreement was based on less than full disclosure.

The Swiss Federal Chancellery recently published a "Declaration on the Interim Gold Report," stating that this report by the independent Bergier Commission fulfills the goals of the Swiss Federal Council to seek "clarity about our past in keeping with our self-defined principles of truth, justice and solidarity." Indeed, the declaration reaches some important moral conclusions regarding truth and solidarity.

Truth: "The Federal Chancellery fails to understand how the parties responsible at the time lacked the necessary sensitivity for moral and political considerations. It thinks they should have drawn other conclusions."

This judgment relates to Bergier Commission findings that, as early as 1941, the Swiss National Bank knew that the German Reichsbank was disposing of looted gold by reselling it to obscure its origin. Gold trade between the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and Germany nevertheless continued until the end of the war, despite the warning of the Allied countries.

Solidarity: The Bergier

Commission further revealed that, "As of 1941, the board of governors [of the SNB] became increasingly aware that Jews and other persecuted groups were being robbed and, in 1943 at the latest, the SNB had knowledge of the systematic extermination of victims of the Nazi regime. Nonetheless, SNB decision-makers neglected taking measures to distinguish looted gold from the gold holdings of the Reichsbank."

The Swiss government's solidarity is expressed in the declaration that, "The Federal Chancellery is concerned by this, because this gold caused immeasurable suffering for the victims of Nazi persecution."

Justice? When it comes to justice, however, the Federal Chancellery's "self-defined principle of justice" falls far short of any acceptable mark.

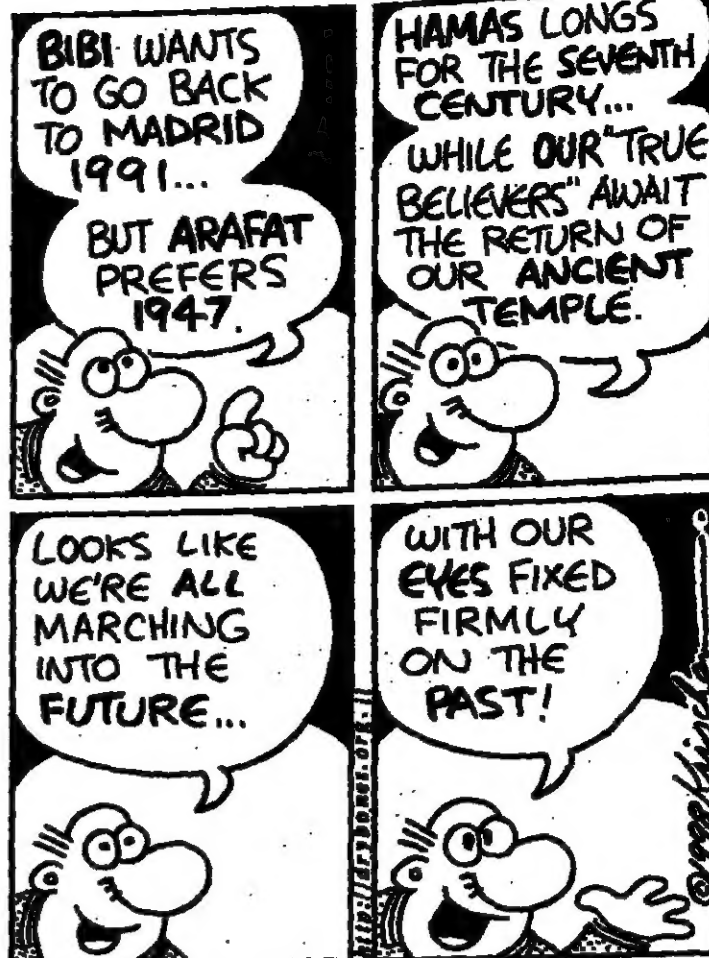
The declaration states: "The report provides no new basic facts and offers no basis for new demands, specifically regarding renegotiating of the Washington Agreement. The Allies obligated themselves in 1946, in return for a Sfr. 250 million payment, to waive all claims against Switzerland which could result from taking delivery of gold from the German Reichsbank during the war."

THE Washington Agreement was based mainly on the disclosure of the Swiss authorities regarding the quantities of looted gold in their possession. Within its framework, the Swiss transferred 52 tons of gold to the Allies.

Yet the Bergier Commission proves that the SNB purchased, for its own account only, approximately 1.2 billion Sfr. worth of looted Nazi gold — the equivalent of about 250 tons.

This was a very good deal for the Swiss, but it certainly is not justice! Between 1945 and 1949,

Dry Bones



the SNB sold some 250 tons of fine gold by minting huge quantities of gold 20 Sfr. coins. This quantity was almost four times larger than the quantities sold during the entire decade preceding the war. Perhaps this extraordinarily large sale of gold coins should also be linked to the search for truth.

Further, if we accept the Federal Chancellery's statement that the Bergier Commission did not provide any new basic facts, we must believe as a result that the Swiss authorities have always been aware of the SNB's dealings with looted assets, which in certain

cases were stained with blood.

If the Federal Chancellery really seeks justice, it must accept demands for the renegotiation of the Washington Agreement based on the new findings which reflect the truth. In the face of these facts, declarations of solidarity and sympathy are simply not enough. They cannot take the place of just compensation for those who lost their wealth to Nazi looters while others profited from their persecution.

The writer is chairman of the Center of Holocaust Organizations in Israel and former chairman of the board of Bank Leumi of Israel.

Playing with Ethiopian fire

MICHA FELDMAN

It can be tempting, while sitting in Boston, to fall into the trap of telling people in Israel how to operate in Ethiopia — but this is precisely what Yosef L. Abramowitz is doing in his well-attended but sadly ill-informed "Save Ethiopia's Jews" (June 23).

Tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews living in Israel owe their lives to the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee which facilitated their survival, their rescue and their aliya.

Even as vocal advocates such as Abramowitz — sheltered comfortably and safely in their offices — repeatedly accused the Jewish Agency and IDC of "abandoning Ethiopian Jews," those organizations were carrying out the rescue in silence, risking the lives of their employees without any hesitation.

Sadly, this pattern is repeating itself even today. Contrary to what Abramowitz claims, the aliya process in Ethiopia does not end with last week's flight from Addis Ababa. The government of Israel, with the Jewish Agency, have resolved to continue processing the Jews of Ethiopia according to the Law of Return, and IDC maintains its unwavering commitment to those Jews whose safety and well-being are threatened.

Indeed, it is to ensure that this safety and well-being are preserved that the processing of aliya applications will now take place in Gondar, close to where

the Jews are located. This process is complex: in Ethiopia, where there are no birth or death certificates and no Population Registry, verification of one's eligibility for aliya takes time and effort.

This process is made even

Throwing terms like 'pogroms' and 'antisemitism' into the debate is a cynical emotional manipulation

harder by a well-known phenomenon: the attempts of non-eligible residents of this poverty-stricken part of the Third World to flee their lot for greener pastures somewhere — anywhere — else.

The IDC is absolutely right to adhere to the government of Israel's definition of who is eligible for aliya. Who else but the State of Israel should make this decision? Why should a responsible Jewish organization choose any other definition? This is not an issue of "who is a Jew" or of religious pluralism — just a simple aliya decision according to the law, moral standards and the finest of Jewish values.

THROWING terms like "pogroms" and "antisemitism" into the debate is a cynical emotional manipulation. In my 16

years of intensive work with the Ethiopian community both in Ethiopia and in Israel, I have learnt a significant lesson: It is the visit of the outside fringe (stranger) advocates that ignites restlessness and friction between Jews and non-Jews in the vil-

lages. Those advocates — sometimes naive, other times motivated by calculated fund-raising agendas — mislead the villagers, build up false expectations and roll a fireball that can turn into a consuming inferno of frustration and conflict.

The applicants have nothing at all to gain, and in fact much to lose, by abandoning their homes, possessions and livelihoods and travelling to Addis Ababa in the illusory hope that doing so will shorten the approval process. Hard experience has shown the misery and suffering that such dislocation causes, even with the substantial medical, financial and other assistance IDC has provided them.

Those approved for aliya will still be required to travel to Addis — but now only a few

weeks before their final departure for Israel, instead of months or even years before, as in the past. IDC will continue to provide help to the would-be immigrants during this temporary period.

By staying in their own homes until the process is complete, the applicants can avoid the enormous difficulties their predecessors encountered. And if a threat to their security arises — if Abramowitz's doomsday scenario actually materializes — there is no question that IDC, the Jewish Agency and the government of Israel will act as they have always acted: to move heaven and earth to rescue them and bring them to safety.

There is, however, a grain of truth in Abramowitz's statement that there is little or no accountability in the Jewish world. Nothing illustrates this better than that he himself, a part-time free-lance, part-time activist feels free to play with fire through his writing.

After all, if a disaster occurs and thousands of Ethiopian Jews leave their villages to become refugees, he will have to answer to nobody for the damage he has helped cause. Except perhaps, to himself, as he watches the tragedy unfold from the safe distance of his home in Boston.

The writer is an expert on Ethiopian Jewry and author of the recently published, in Hebrew, Exodus From Ethiopia.

Israel: Life on the edge

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

I had just come off the plane at Ben-Gurion Airport, gotten into a van and proceeded exactly 40 yards, when I turned the corner and entered upon a scene of utter pandemonium: sirens screaming, men with guns running everywhere, two people carrying a stretcher. A racing ambulance cut us off. A cop pounded on the windows of our van and bellowed at us to get out of there.

"What the hell is going on?" I asked our driver.

"We just stumbled into the middle of a drill. Anti-terrorist. Chemical weapons. I think," he said calmly as he gunned the engine and sped away.

"Welcome to Israel." It's a long way from the land of Monica and Bill.

Living in the United States, now enjoying a time of unprecedented security, prosperity and social tranquility, it is almost impossible to understand this country.

Hard to grasp first is the intensity of life. Israelis are a people for whom every day involves matters literally of life and death. Life and death for their sons and daughters, who serve in the army and regularly expose themselves to death in places like Lebanon. Life and death on the street, where the loaded machine

guns so casually slung over the shoulder of what seems like every youngster over 18 are a reminder that you are in a garrison state.

(By law, no group of children is allowed on excursion without an armed escort — a result of bitter experience with terrorism.)

And finally, life and death for the country, one of the few nations on earth that should it miscalculate in dealing with its enemies, can disappear.

Hence the intensity: argument and dispute at every turn, passionate debate at every dinner, politics everywhere and incessant. After two weeks of this, a return to the triviality of Monica-Bill Washington will be an almost physical decompression, a palpable and quite guilty relief. It ain't easy living on the edge.

ONE reason Israel lives on the edge is its size. The edge, the frontier, is everywhere because the country is so incomprehensibly small.

You go to Mount Scopus in Jerusalem, and if you look eastward toward the West Bank, you are struck immediately by a range of mountains looking you right in the eye no more than 25 miles away. They are in Jordan — a good

10 miles into Jordan.

Your eyes have just traversed the West Bank, which is 15 miles wide at that point. You are looking not at the Palestinian state soon to be created next to Israel, but over it to a second Arab country lying beyond it — all at the distance of an American suburb.

Indeed the very topographical adjectives used here seem faintly ridiculous to Americans. Mount Scopus, like the Mount of Olives and just about every other "mount" here, is no mountain. It is a hill.

The Jordan River is no river. For almost its entire length it is something between a creek and a stream. This comes as a shock to many Christian pilgrims who, when they think of rivers, think of the Mississippi or the Hudson.

And the Sea of Galilee is no sea. For all of its biblical grandeur, it is no more than a small lake. It is 14 miles long and eight miles wide at its widest point, less than half the size of Ted Turner's Montana ranch.

Equally striking for a traveler, however, is the other frontier, the internal frontier dividing Israelis. To Westerners, Israel's obvious obsession with external enemies tends to obscure its other obses-

sion: the haredim. They are only seven percent of the population but, because of Israel's fractured political system, they wield inordinate and oppressive power.

In a recent poll asking Israelis what concerned them most about the future, the ultras topped the list. (The Palestinian issue came second.)

David Makovsky, a leading journalist, explained the problem succinctly. "The haredim don't serve in the army. They don't work or pay taxes [the men spend all day in study], and they want to tell everybody else how to live. These three things don't add up."

But they infuriate. I got a taste of the depth of feeling one night here when heading out to dinner with a friend. An ultra, instantly identifiable by his heavy black woolen clothing and fur hat (the garb of 17th-century Poland that they wear in the excommunicating heat of Jerusalem), had crossed the street in front of a speeding car.

The driver, enraged, screamed a word in Hebrew that I couldn't quite make out.

"I'm behind on your slang," I said to my friend. "Is *tsarfayes* the new term for 'F-you'?" My friend laughed.

"It means: Enlist."

(Washington Post Writers Group)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRESIDENTIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS

Sir, — I am appalled by President Weizman's latest pronouncements, as reported in "Weizman: Netanyahu misled me" (June 23).

By voicing the well-known line of Netanyahu the liar, double-crosser, breaker of promises, etc., he is joining the company of not only the vociferous Israeli Left, but also of such proven friends of Israel like Hosni Mubarak, Yasser Arafat et al.

In so doing, Weizman chose to be a gutter-fighter, rather than the president of all of Israel. I am not a Netanyahu lover, far from it. Perhaps he is badly flawed, as many of his detractors indicate. But for a president to speak the language of Israel's adversaries is simply preposterous.

DR. JOHN GRUNWALD
Ramat Gan.

TOURIST SITE

Sir, — According to a report in your paper, as soon as the group of visiting American Reform rabbis arrived in Israel, they made a bee line for the Western Wall, ostensibly to pray.

The Western Wall is the retaining wall of the Temple platform built by Herod. The Temple was not a synagogue, rather it was the center of the sacrificial cult in which huge numbers of animals were slaughtered daily.

As the Reform movement has removed all mention of animal sacrifices and prayers for the rebuilding of the Temple and the reinstatement of sacrifices from its liturgy, what therefore was the attraction?

Was it perhaps just because it is on the list of tourist sites that one must visit?

CYRIL ATKINS
Bet Shemesh.

THE LEFT'S AGENDA

Sir, — Jonathan Rosenblum's overlong piece on haredim and the Left, "Why the haredim are Right" (June 26), misses a critical point.

Had the left-wing of the Rabin-Peres governments been willing to restrain itself in its attacks on traditional Judaism in general, and haredim in particular, they could have easily guaranteed their own success in the

1996 elections, thereby protecting their version of peace.

But, as it turns out, we all understand now that the peace process is only the second most important thing in the haredim and on the agenda of the Left. And apparently not even a close second.

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ
Elazar.

CONVERSION ABSURDITY

Sir, — The biggest absurdity in Reuven Hammer's op-ed, "Conversion absurdity" (June 21), is the contradiction between Hammer's statements and actions.

He says the government has no place in the conversion process. I guess he forgot that the Conservative's movement's petition to the Supreme Court is what precipitated the conversion bill in the first place.

If he is serious, he should have the Conservative movement withdraw its petition to the court and the Knesset will not need to pass the conversion bill. The status quo can therefore remain and he can have his wish — the government staying out of the conversion process.

AL DAVIS
Jerusalem.

NETANYAHU'S RAP

Sir, — In reference to the June 22 front-page headline and story, "PM raps Albright" by Jay Bushinsky. The word "rap" in slang means censure, castigate, assault, attack, pillory and blast.

Did the prime minister do any of these (directed at the US secretary of state) at the news conference? Shouldn't there have been a more careful choice of words by the reporter and headline writer?

ARNOLD SULLUM
Jerusalem.

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, on which we base our style, defines rap as "to criticize sharply," which is what the prime minister did.

Ed - JP.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On June 29, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that the glories and natural beauty of Tiberias and the healing properties of the Hot Springs ensured the whole district an unrivaled future as a summer and winter health resort.

50 years ago: On June 29, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported

that the UN plane left Rhodes for Cairo and Tel Aviv to take the Count Bernadotte's peace plan to the Arabs and Jews. Throughout Israel, soldiers, sailors and air-men swore allegiance to the state, completing the process of transforming the Hagana into a full-fledged national army.

25 years ago: On June 29,

1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported on the kidnapping of an eight-year-old boy, Jacques Alvo (the first such case in Israel). Despite the kidnappers' warning, police were informed and the boy was found unharmed 15 hours later, abandoned on a Tel Aviv street corner.

Alexander Zvielli

What's the Chinese for cholent?

With the Clintons in China this week, the small but revitalized Jewish community there will likely receive some welcome attention, writes Tom Tugend

The scheduled visit by American First Lady Hillary Clinton and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to a restored Shanghai synagogue is expected to put the spotlight on China's small but revitalized Jewish communities.

In China's capital, for instance, a communal Seder was attended by 280 celebrants, and to get the culinary part right, they turned to the bubble of Beijing.

The bubble is Elaine Silverberg, who moved to Beijing 10 years ago from Long Island to join her resident daughter, Elyse Beth Silverberg, a successful business executive.

Since then, the bubble has devoted much of her time to codding her Beijing-born grandson, Ari, and training some of the city's top chefs in the art of Jewish-style cooking. For the Seder, her lesson plan included instructions on the making of tasty matza ball soup and horseradish.

The Seder was a huge success, setting an all-time record for Jewish holiday observance in Beijing. Joining the festive occasion were Israeli embassy personnel and some foreign tourists.

With the accelerated opening of China to the Western world, a steady trickle of Jewish businesspeople from the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe and Israel have established a Jewish presence in Beijing and are reviving the long-dormant Jewish community in Shanghai.

Their numbers are augmented by resident diplomats from Israel and other countries, and by young men and women looking for a different climate and often finding a first foothold as teachers of English.

Hong Kong, the outpost of the British empire until its incorporation into China last year, remains by far the largest Jewish center in the country, with some 3,500 residents.

But the formation of Kehillat Beijing by the city's 250 Jews, and the newly established B'nai Yisrael congregation by Shanghai's 150 Jews prove once again that it takes only a small critical mass of Jews to trigger a chain reaction of communal activities — and rivalries.

Elyse Beth Silverberg came to Beijing as an exchange student in 1979, married a Chinese businessman, and after founding a medical instrumentation company has just opened her Beijing United Family Hospital.

She has been the spark plug and steady anchor in a community whose Western business and diplomatic members rarely stay in place for more than three years.

Although Kehillat Beijing has no synagogue, the small congregation has standing ritual and continuing education committees, and holds occasional retreats led by a rabbi from Hong Kong. There is also a constantly refilled *pushke* (collection box) to pay for Purim parties and books.

"We have no formal membership, our policy is 'pay as you press,'" says Silverberg.

She explains what keeps the community together and growing:

"We live in an alien place and during the week we are very busy trying to integrate into the local environment. So on Shabbat and holidays, we feel a particularly strong need to bond as Jews."

A recent American newcomer to Beijing, Joseph (Joey) Rubens, has taken it upon himself to spread the reputation of Kehillat Beijing via the Internet, and alert Jewish tourists to its services.

He teaches English in a business college and brought along some of his Chinese students to a dinner he hosted for my wife and myself.

We asked the students whether they had ever met any Jews besides Rubens. They hadn't.



Harold European refugees in the Hongkew neighborhood of Shanghai in 1940: Today there are 150 Jews in the city, representing 11 different nationalities. (Diaspora Museum)

What had they heard about them? All answered in a phrase we were to hear in other Chinese cities and in a similar tone of admiration: "Jews are very smart and very rich." In addition, the Chinese feel a kinship to Jews as fellow bearers of an ancient and surviving civilization.

Shanghai has a much longer history of Jewish life than Beijing, but its present community is of more recent origin. When the port city was opened to international trade in the 1840s, Jews from Iraq and India — the Sassoons, Kadoories and Handoons — established themselves as the city's foremost merchant princes and constructed many of its still-existing landmark buildings.

A new wave of some 4,500 Jews arrived in the first two decades of this century as refugees from Czarist pogroms and the Bolsheviks. During the Nazi era, when Shanghai was just about the only place in the world to admit refugees without a visa, some 20,000 central European Jews settled in the city's Hongkew district.

All the wartime refugees left for Israel, the US or Australia after the war. Organized Jewish life disappeared until the founding of the B'nai Yisrael congregation some 18 months ago.

The revival owes much to Seth Kaplan, a 31-year-old entrepreneur from New York, who served as first president of the congregation, and sees a parallel between the current influx and the arrival of Jewish merchants 150 years ago.

We live in an alien place ... So on Shabbat and holidays we feel a particularly strong need to bond as Jews

— Elyse Beth Silverberg

"Jews make up less than two percent of Shanghai's non-Asian population, but they represent 30% of the non-Asian entrepreneurs," says Kaplan.

Last April, the city's 150 Jews, representing 11 different nationalities, celebrated Pessah, but were

unable to agree on one joint communal Seder. Instead, there were three Seders, one organized by Habad, one by the Israeli consulate, and one by a private family.

Accordingly, says Kaplan, the toughest part of his volunteer job is to keep the Jewish community going and to prevent it from splintering into even smaller parts.

On a personal level, Kaplan notes the difficulty of finding a Jewish mate in Shanghai and agrees, only half-jokingly, that he may have to import an American mail-order bride.

Two buildings which formerly served as synagogues, the Sephardi Ohel Rachel, built in 1929, and the Ashkenazi Ohel Moishe, still stand.

The Sephardi synagogue has been occupied for nearly 50 years by the state education commission. During World War II it housed the Jewish refugees who had fled to Shanghai.

The former Ohel Moishe houses a permanent photo exhibit commemorating the Jewish enclave and its inhabitants during the war.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the New York-based Appeal of Conscience Foundation, has been pressing Chinese officials for the past 17 years to vacate the synagogue and to restore and declare it

as an historic landmark.

The municipality has promised for years to renovate both synagogues and return them to the Jewish community.

Despite repeated requests by the Israeli government and American Jewish organizations, there has been "no practical progress in the matter," says Ya'acov Keidar, the Israeli consul-general in Shanghai.

The congenial Chinese caretaker, Wang Fa Liang, who shared life in the ghetto with the refugees during the Japanese occupation, doubles as historian of the era and a guide to points of Jewish interest.

Ohel Moishe got a long-overdue coat of paint a month ago to welcome Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his entourage. Ohel Rachel is now getting the same treatment for welcoming Hillary Clinton and Albright.

Schneier said the only thing missing now is a Torah, which he and his wife were planning to bring to the Shanghai synagogue this week as a gift from Schneier's congregation, Park East Synagogue in New York.

Schneier hopes the restoration of the synagogue will mark a "first step in the revival of Jewish life in Shanghai," a city where there has been a Jewish presence going back to the eighth century.

Although enclaves of ethnic Chinese practicing Judaism existed in past centuries, particularly in Kaifeng, they have melded into the general population and none are found among the members of the present congregations in Beijing and Shanghai.

There is, however, a growing interest in Judaism and Israel among Chinese academics. They have established a Center of Jewish Studies and the China Judaic Studies Association in Shanghai, and a four-year curriculum in Hebrew language and literature at Beijing University.

Formal diplomatic relations between Israel and China were established in 1992, and reports on Israel in the controlled Chinese press have become more balanced in recent years, says Orna Sagiv, the information officer of the Israeli embassy in Beijing.

Both the embassy and the consulate in Shanghai spend considerable effort in expanding trade relations between the two countries. Bilateral trade currently amounts to about \$300 million per year, with China holding a two-to-one edge in the balance of trade.

On the eve of his trip, US President Bill Clinton met with Schneier, the Rev. Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, and Theodore McCarrick, archbishop of Newark, New Jersey.

The clerics, who visited China earlier this year, shared with Clinton their findings that the climate for religious freedom in China had improved during the last 20 years, but still lagged behind international standards.

Schneier underscored the need for China to recognize Judaism as an official religion.

China has said it has no reason to recognize Judaism because it has no Jews, but Schneier said that the issue has become more important now that Hong Kong's Jews are part of China.

Also prior to Clinton's departure, more than 250 religious leaders sent an appeal urging the president to press Chinese officials to release those imprisoned for practicing their faith and to rescind decrees limiting the free functioning of religion.

The appeal, organized by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, said, "It is our hope that your willingness to dialogue with the Chinese leaders will include the strongest possible prodding on religious liberty in China."

Daring to be different

Morris Shehadeeh knows his place in the family.

"Coffee?" he asks the guest. "You see," he says, grinning, upon returning with a tray of goodies, "in this Arab home, it's the man who prepares the coffee."

"We've always been different," says his wife Suad, a feminist activist, artist and lapsed politician with a passion for education.

Morris is a good sport about his role as head of a family of Arab feminists. He supports Suad's mission to the hilt. Good thing, too: they have five daughters who've followed her lead.

And different they are, in a society not noted for free-spirited individualism.

"I've been a feminist ever since I was a little girl in the village, even from the age of six or seven. It bothered me that most of my classmates — about 15 girls, out of 20 — did not go on to high school."

Saad was encouraged to study by parents who were

nequin dressed up as anything she's not. Regard for Suad is so high that she was short-listed for an ambassadorial posting.

Regard for her is so high that in 1989 the city presented her with a certificate, proclaiming her an exemplary citizen.

At least until she gets her latest degree, she has restricted her political involvement to Haifa and the region. For now, national politics will just have to struggle along without her.

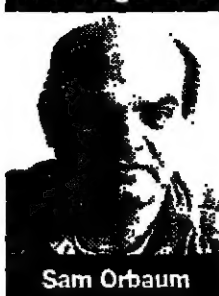
Unrestricted is her battle for women's rights — mostly Arab issues, which are most pressing, but she is devoted to universal issues too.

Feminism can make men see red in an archly traditional, male-dominated society.

"In the past, if a woman was beaten, no one spoke of it, it wasn't dealt with, or if it was, only within the family — either they'd make *sholeet* or she'd suffer, or be murdered, and no one knew anything. To some extent we changed that."

"There are some places that

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

'I didn't go to an Arab high school, I went to a Jewish one, near Acre. I was the only Arab there. But it was fine, it was the mid 1960s; I was like one of the Jewish girls, we did everything together. There was no racism, not as we have now'

illiterate, who never went to school themselves. She is more than making up for it: she's still a student, at the age of 50.

"I didn't go to an Arab high school, I went to a Jewish one, near Acre. I was the only Arab there. But it was fine, it was the mid 1960s; I was like one of the Jewish girls, we did everything together. There was no racism, not as we have now."

She has always raised eyebrows in her village, Fassuta, an enclave of 2,000 Catholic Arabs three kilometers from the Lebanese border.

"It wasn't easy for a girl to go study, to wear pants, to leave the *kfar*, to learn Hebrew. I was among the first to break from the traditions. It was a bit hard at the beginning, but I wanted to change things."

Even something as simple as choosing names for her children. She smiles. "Yes, there was a little outcry."

Samirah, the eldest at 27, was named for an Egyptian mythical character, a half-fish, half-girl daughter of the sea.

A year later Ezies was born, named for Isis, the goddess of the Nile. Why the strange spelling? She laughs teasingly. "I spell it as I wish!"

Osiris was the husband and brother of Isis in Egyptian mythology, and god of the underworld; however, in the Shehadeeh family, he's a beautiful she (who also took liberties with her monicker, spelling it Azoris). Does she mind going through life with a man's name? No, says Ezies, "anyway, only we know it's a man's name."

But everyone knows that Adonis was the paragon of male beauty — and Greek at that. Never mind: Adonis Shehadeeh is 18, and all woman.

The youngest is 14-year-old Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty.

All five are tall and lovely, artistic, ardently feminist, and, like their parents, believe that a woman's place is in school.

Azoris studies business management and law; Samirah majored in chemistry at the Technion before embarking on a career in fashion design; Adonis studies English and English literature; Ezies, tourism; Suad herself has degrees in education, management and is working on her BA in art.

Saad's return to school interrupted a promising political career. Two years ago, in the Meretz primaries, Suad garnered more votes than anyone else in Haifa, Jew or Arab. She placed 15th on the Meretz list in the Knesset elections.

She was an extreme rarity — an Arab woman politician — but don't even suggest it was tokenism. She is not a man-

are still closed, where our voices cannot be heard, especially in the Arab Triangle, around Umm el Fahm, that area. It's Moslem, and shut off, they're in a different world. But now we've started making progress there too, little by little.

"In the Galilee, it's completely changed in the last 20 years, it's unbelievable — whether it's women studying, or in the work place, day-to-day life. Some of the men in fact support these changes." She smiles wryly. "As long as the changes don't affect them directly, they support them."

As if Suad doesn't have enough on her plate, this student-politician-feminist-mother-writer too: she's the big boss of a community center in Haifa's largest Arab neighborhood, Wadi Nisnas is grizzled, rough, poor. A woman like this can have a profound influence on a place like that.

MORRIS doesn't just pour coffee.

He's known in local circles as "the mukhtar of mukhtars." Like Suad, he devotes his life to public service. "I help everybody," he states simply.

A traffic accident 19 years ago left him severely debilitated and unable to work. He says the injury was "a one-in-a-million chance": his lymph system was destroyed.

"Any infection, the slightest scratch could kill me. I have no immunity. I live on antibiotics, with high fever, and constant fear." His limbs are grossly puffy.

"I fought with the National Insurance Institute — alone. But I put my experience to good use; I learned all the laws, and then I was able to help others who've been handicapped."

"People don't know what to do, where to go, they fall between the chairs, and most Arabs are blue-collar, so it happens a lot. Arabs don't know the laws, they don't know their rights, and they can't afford a lawyer to represent them. So I represent them. I go to labor courts and fight for them. I find loopholes in the law to protect people."

Instead of staying in bed, where it's safe, he takes mortal risks, rolling up his sleeves and getting involved — strictly voluntary.

With his harem of beautiful daughters, he's had a full-time career fending off boyfriends. "Actually, they have good taste in men. My girls wouldn't get involved with the wrong sort."

Samirah is now married, and has given Morris a Morris Jr. to date on.

Does his son-in-law realize what it is to be married into this family?

"Oh yeah," Morris laughs as he clears away the coffee cups. "He helps his wife too."

ISRAEL ELECTRIC TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods:

Tender No. 663833 - For the supply of outdoor insulators 24/36kv and accessories

First stage: Submission of technical/commercial data without prices. Payment for tender documents, (including VAT), NIS 2188
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Last date for submission of bids for the above tender: July 12, 1998 at 11 a.m.

Additional participation pre-conditions:

A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies)

B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required relevant documents, permits, licenses, etc. to submit them within a specified time that will be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) for the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address by calling 04-868-7454/5. Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused, Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the above offices or at the Sales Department, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, entrance C, 1st floor. Tel. 03-565-4679, 03-565-4641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and be placed in Tender Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above, not later than 11 a.m.

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No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

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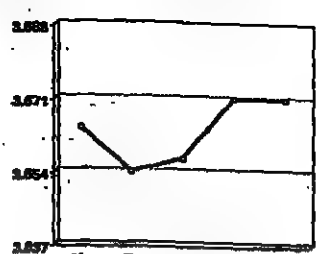
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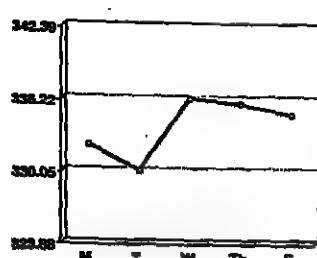
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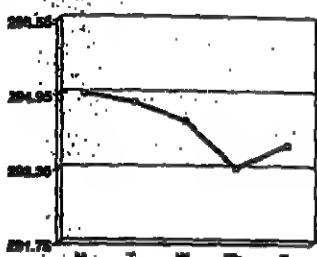


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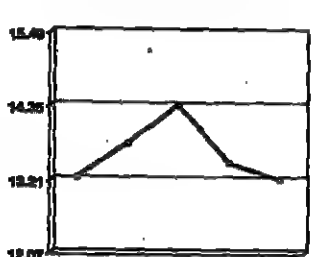
GOLD

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OIL

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DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Danish pharmaceutical executives here

A high-level delegation from the Danish pharmaceutical and biotechnology company Novo-Nordisk A/S arrived here yesterday to explore opportunities for joint ventures with local companies and direct investments. The company, which is the world leader in the production of insulin, has revenues of \$2.5 billion a year.

The group, headed by the company's research and development head, is to meet with Chief Scientist Orna Berry, Max Livnat, director of the Industry and Trade Ministry's Center for Investment Promotion, start-up companies, universities and research institutes, and venture capital funds specializing in biotechnology. *Nina Gilbert*

Sharansky leaves for Central Asia

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky's left yesterday for a visit to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan to advance economic cooperation. He is being joined by a group of industrialists, including a number from the high-tech and energy sectors, who will hold business meetings in the countries.

During the visit, Sharansky will meet with the presidents of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and senior ministers in all three countries. Economic cooperation agreements will also be signed. *Nina Gilbert*

Spain's Anzar encourages Luxor tourism

Ahead of his visit to Israel this week, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Anzar said he chose to travel to Luxor on his visit to Egypt to encourage the Spanish to take holidays in Egypt. Anzar began his visit to Egypt in Luxor and then headed to Cairo. *Bloomberg*

Current-account deficit 44% lower

By DAVID HARRIS

The current-account deficit shrank 44 percent to \$536 million in the first quarter of the year, compared to \$955m. for the same period in 1997, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. The figures also point to foreign investments falling 89% from \$220m. to \$25m. over the same period.

The current-account deficit is the overall gap between imported and exported goods and services, together with unilateral payments, such as US aid.

The reduction in the deficit came about in the main because of a shrinking trade deficit, which was offset to some extent by an increase in the services deficit and unilateral payments, according to the bureau. The trade deficit reached some \$1b. in the first quarter, down from \$1.5b. a year earlier. This includes defense imports which registered \$500m., up \$100m.

The services deficit stood at \$1b., slightly higher than on March 31 last year. The reduction in the size of the trade deficit is further evidence of the ongoing economic slowdown.

At the same time, foreign debt increased \$2.2 billion in the first three months, as against a \$1.7b. increase between January and March last year. Of this debt, two-thirds was built up by the government, with the remainder in the private sector.

Israeli assets abroad rose \$1.8b. in the first quarter, compared to a \$1.4b. increase during the equivalent period in 1997.

The net overseas debt, which reflects the gap between foreign debt and assets, registered \$18b., which comprised a \$53.8b. debt and assets to the value of \$35.8b.

Net investments in Israel totaled \$600m., down 33% on the \$900m. recorded last year. Bank of Israel foreign reserves, meanwhile, increased \$1.2b. in the first quarter, compared to a \$4.2b. increase from January-March last year. In the commercial banks, foreign currency reserves rose \$800m. against a \$2.1b. decline in early 1997.

The first quarter data halted the downward move in the current-account deficit which began in the fourth quarter last year. That produced a \$164m. surplus in the balance of payments, the first surplus since the equivalent three months

in 1996 (when it was \$38m.).

During 1997, foreigners invested \$3.4b. here, compared to \$2.4b. in the previous year. Israelis invested \$0.8b. overseas last year, up \$0.1b. on the 1996 figure.

The figures were published days ahead of the start of internal Treasury discussions on the 1999 state budget. For the time being, the government appears to be on track for meeting its budget deficit target for this year, set at 2.4% of the gross domestic product. The mid-term aim is for that deficit to be as little as 1.5% of GDP by 2001.

Gaon exercises options for NIS 21m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD and NINA GILBERT

Benny Gaon, the outgoing CEO of Koor Industries, exercised company options for some NIS 21.6 million, Koor announced yesterday. Last year, Gaon sold options for about NIS 40m.

Koor also announced that Danny Biran, Koor's president, will replace Gaon as Tadiran's board chairman.

In a separate announcement, Tadiran's subsidiary Tadiran Appliances said its board over the weekend approved a plan for the reorganization of the company by establishing two subsidiaries.

All activities related to the marketing and distribution of imported products and the marketing of refrigerators will be carried out by a new subsidiary, Tadiran Trading Ltd. This company is to begin operating within a few months.

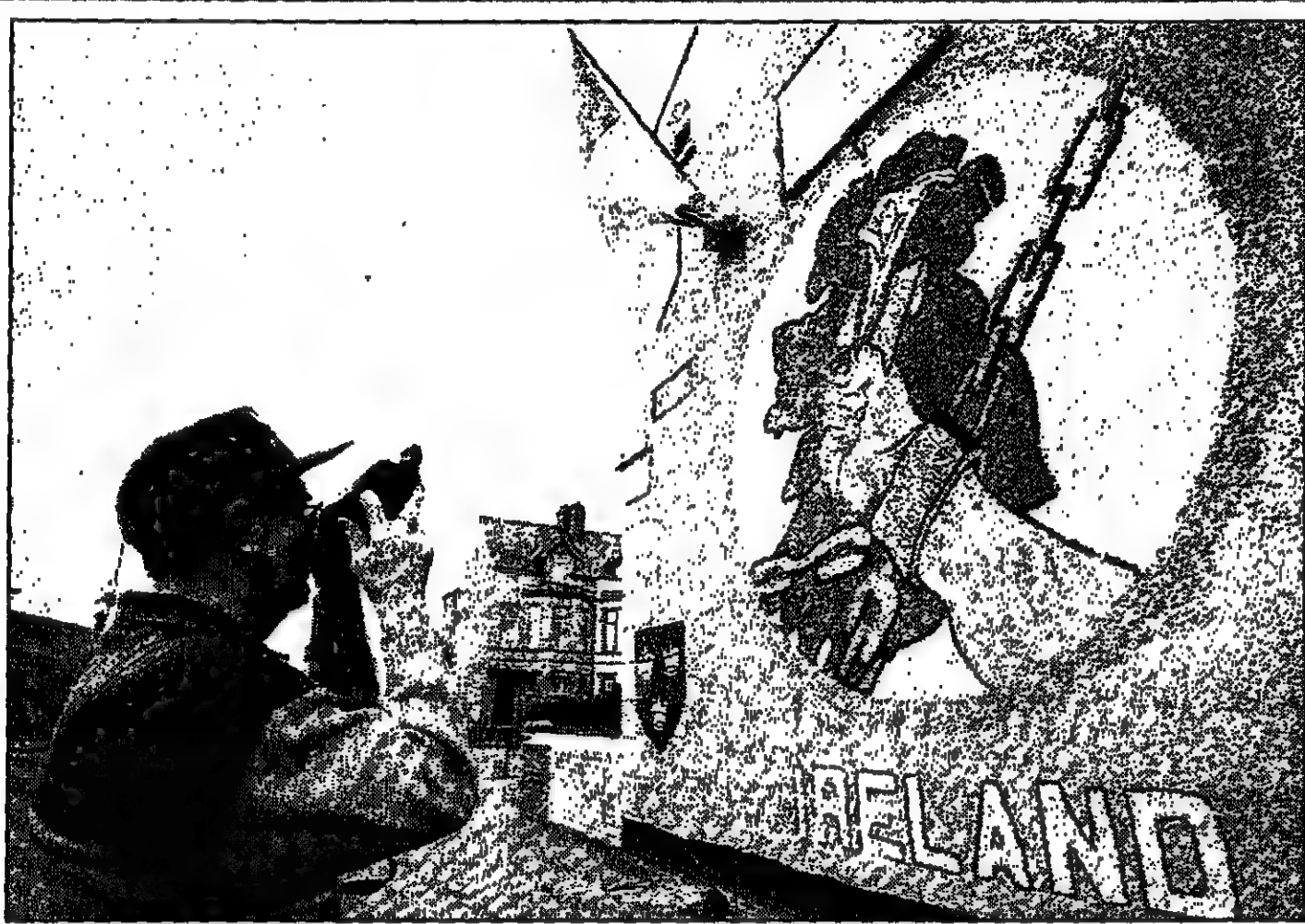
All air-conditioning activities, including design, development, production, distribution, and servicing, as well as import and distribution of Carrier air-conditioning units will be concentrated in the second subsidiary, Tadiran Central Air-Conditioning Ltd.

Last March, the American air-conditioning manufacturer Carrier bought 26 percent of Tadiran Appliances for \$17 million.

Since then it has increased its holdings by another 3% on the stock exchange. It also has the option to buy up to 51%.

Israel Zamir, CEO of Tadiran Ltd., said the move was taken by the concern in the framework of the strategic partnership with Carrier, and to exploit the business potential in all areas of the company's activities.

The Tel Aviv-based Tadiran Appliances will continue to develop products, including refrigerators, and also manage its two subsidiaries.



Tourists return to Belfast

A tourist yesterday photographs one of the Republican murals that adorn the side of many buildings in West Belfast. Since the IRA truce last year an air of normalcy has returned to the streets of the former war zone and as a result tourism is on the increase. *(Reuters)*

Record vacationers abroad expected in summer

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Between 600,000 and 700,000 Israelis are expected to travel abroad this summer, the Tourism Ministry said yesterday, and El Al said it expects to have a record number of passengers during August as a result of increased travel by Israelis.

Confirming his predictions was a survey conducted by Teleser which found that 24 percent of a representative survey of those over 18 said that they intended to travel abroad this summer.

Another 25% said they intend-

ed to go somewhere in Israel for a vacation, and 3% said that they intended to have a vacation in Israel and also go abroad.

El Al said it is expecting an increase of 18% in the number of Israelis travelling abroad in August, compared to the number going abroad last year. Commercial vice-president Mickey Gat reported to the company's board of directors that there are increased reservations to the US, Europe, and the Mediterranean area.

It appears, Gat said, that this August will be the best in the company's history.

He noted that there appears to be a more modest increase, some 6%, in the number of foreign tourists arriving during August, compared with August 1997.

Gat added that despite predictions that fewer Israelis would travel abroad, many are making their reservations only two weeks to a month before they intend to travel.

In previous years, most of the reservations came a month to three months in advance, he said.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said that the company prepared for the possibility of the increased summer load by leasing

an MD-11 aircraft to fly to Chicago and Los Angeles.

The number of flights to such popular destinations as New York, London, Paris, and Rome has been increased and the company has scheduled jumbo jets for the most popular nearby destinations of Rhodes and Turkey, he said.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav called on the Israelis going abroad to be ambassadors of goodwill.

Business Data Israel:

No improvement soon for businesses

By NINA GILBERT

The number of businesses that have entered into difficulties since the beginning of the year is estimated at 8,640, a 35 percent rise compared with the same period last year, according to a survey conducted by Business Data Israel.

According to the survey, the businesses encountering the greatest difficulties are those dealing with business services (including computer sales), fol-

lowed by building companies and those that sell food and consumer products.

Ayal Yanai, BDI's managing director, said the amount of unpaid debts by businesses and companies this year is expected to total some NIS 1.5 billion, compared with NIS 1.2b. last year.

"A businesses is considered as entering into difficulties after not meeting loans or payments on debts or experiencing a drastic reduction in income," he said. "More than 70 percent of business

don't survive a year after entering into difficulties."

The situation this year is considered even worse since there is no sign of a recovery, according to BDI.

In 1998, a total of 20,000 companies are expected to enter into difficulties, or 20% of all businesses, compared with 16,781 last year and 13,379 in 1996.

The past two years indicate a worsening of business viability, after an improvement that began in 1995 and continued into 1996.

Lebanon to import LNG from Syria

The Lebanese government is ready to buy LNG from Syria, according to several newspaper reports published in Beirut.

The two major electricity power plants, Zahran and Baddawi, will be converted to run on natural gas, starting in eight months, said Electricity and Water Resources Minister Elias Hobeikah.

Lebanon will import the gas from Syria to replace fuel oil and diesel oil in a bid to cut down costs and air pollution.

The cost of the conversion was not revealed by Hobeikah, during a joint press conference with Syrian Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Mohammed Jammal, however he said the project will reduce Lebanon's annual \$400 million fuel import bill by \$100 million.

In the first instance Lebanon will buy its gas from Syria, but Hobeikah would not rule out considering other suppliers. *(News agencies)*

Peace center works for desalination plants

By STEVE RODAN

A US-based center said last week it is trying to organize a \$450 million project to construct two desalination plants along the Mediterranean coast to ease the regional water crisis expected in the next decade.

The Center for Peace and Economic Cooperation in the Middle East, headed by former US House of Representatives member Wayne Owens, intends to place one desalination plant outside Hadera for use in Israel. The other plant would be located in Gaza for Palestinian use.

Sources involved in the project said Owens held several meetings with officials, economic institutions and industrialists to advance the project.

He said a feasibility study conducted over the last few months by US accounting firm Arthur Anderson determined that the desalination plants would be

cost-effective and help solve the water shortage that some experts predict might begin as early as 2008.

The study said that desalination plants have succeeded in increasing the supply of drinking water in 120 countries where the facilities currently operate.

Project organizers said the Hadera plant would provide 100 million cubic meters of drinking water annually, which comprises 20 percent of the national consumption.

Owens said that the center is in contact with both Israeli and American entrepreneurs who might invest in the project. US officials have been working for several years to find solutions to ensure both Israel and the PA sufficient water resources.

In 1995, the government of then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin formally recognized Palestinian rights to water resources and said the details

would be worked out in final status negotiations.

The PA claims rights to all water emanating from the West Bank even if the water reaches Israel.

This includes two major aquifers, one which runs along the coast and one that is found in the northern part of the West Bank and the Bet She'an area.

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Good Will Hunter

Top negotiator to face NBA in lockout talks

NEW YORK — Billy Hunter has never backed away from a good fight.

As a kid in Cherry Hill, NJ, he was part of the first group of blacks to appear in the Little League World Series. As a football player at Syracuse University, he led a drive to boycott games against southern schools with segregated stadiums. And as a US attorney in Northern California, he sent a procession of Hells Angels to prison, sought and received clemency for newspaper heiress Patty Hearst and prosecuted Jim Jones for the mass killings in Guyana.

Racial integration. Motorcycle gangs. Cult killings. It was that kind of background that helped convince basketball players that Hunter, whom they hired as executive director of the NBA Players Association in 1995, was the man to go up against the NBA and David Stern, often seen as the most popular and controlling commissioner in sports.

"With the players united, Billy is just as strong as David Stern," said former NBA president Buck Williams. "He's bright, he won't capitulate and he's a tough negotiator. He can roll his sleeves up, get down to the nitty gritty and do what needs to be done."

That's exactly what Hunter is doing this summer as he leads the players in what is expected to be the most difficult contract negotiations in the history of the NBA.

At stake is control of billions of dollars as the league's new four-year, \$3 billion television contract is expected to boost revenue well above last year's estimated take of \$1.74b. Also at stake is the start of the regular season. Contract talks broke down early last week in New York. No new talks are scheduled, and the league expects to impose a league-wide lockout Wednesday.

"I would say no progress has been made at all," Hunter said. "I expected that, but it doesn't mean I'm not frustrated."

Although the NBA twice has endured a work stoppage, it is the only major sports league that never has lost a game to labor strife. This time, with so much money at stake and the division between the sides so wide, it is more likely that the lockout will carry into the regular season. A sign that both sides mean business came early in the month when players were removed from the USA basketball team after voting to boycott the World Championship in Greece if the league imposed its lockout.

"The owners voted to open up the collective-bargaining agreement knowing what the risks are," said NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik, when asked if the league is ready to risk losing games.

"There was no sugar coating to any of the owners about what might happen when you go into collective bargaining. There are several issues the two sides

remain far apart on, including testing for marijuana, but the main issue is how the NBA shares profits with its players. The league wants a firm salary cap, similar to the NFL's, in which the league's total labor costs are a set percentage of the total revenue.

"Basically, the owners are looking for a rollback," Hunter said. "The themes of all the meetings is that the players needed to have a change in expectations, that they shouldn't expect to be paid so much."

"My position is why? With the infusion of TV revenues, there's going to be a big jump (in total league income). No team is in jeopardy of losing money next season."

The owners, however, contend that under the current system, too much money is paid in salaries and the best solution to that is a hard cap. The big key to making the cap hard is to get rid of most loopholes, especially the Larry Bird exception. The Bird rule allows a team to re-sign its own player for any amount, regardless of the team's cap situation. The rule has permitted superstars such as Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing to stay with one team and forge an identity that is good for the league, but it also led to the Timberwolves re-signing Kevin Garnett to a six-year, \$126-million contract, and to the Grizzlies re-signing center Bryant Reeves for six years and more than \$60m.

"The big issue is that they don't want any controls on salaries for high-end players," Granik said.

Said Hunter: "No one makes those owners pay. I have a budget and I stick to it. Why should the players have to pay for the owners' bad decisions?"

Hunter has said the players consider the Bird exemption "sacred." And the owners seem adamant about getting rid of it. Both say they are heading into July 1 with resolve.

The question is: At what point does resolve become stubbornness, and can the league really risk taking the lockout into the season? In many ways, the labor negotiations come at a clear crossroads for the league. With Jordan, the player who vaulted the NBA into the economic stratosphere, probably on the verge of retirement and the public image of NBA players at its worst in almost 20 years, a protracted lockout could hurt the league for years to come.

"If you look at the overall condition of the NBA, I don't think the NBA can withstand labor strikes," Buck Williams said. "Both sides need to come up with concessions and make an agreement. Greed is the thing that will kill the goose that laid the golden egg. Greed from management, and greed from players."

(Newspay)

Jordan says he won't stay if Bulls decide to rebuild

GREENVILLE, NC (AP) — Michael Jordan is taking Phil Jackson's departure as a sign the Chicago Bulls are rebuilding. And he wants no part of that.

"I don't want to start over. I'm pretty sure losing Phil is a sign of that," Jordan said Saturday at a news conference before teeing off at the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic.

"So I can tell you where my mind is leaning in some respects. I don't want a rebuilding process."

Jordan once said he would only play for Jackson, though he softened that stance toward the end of the season. And when the coach

made good last week on his season-long threat to leave, Jordan said his decision also depended on the future of teammates Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman.

Jordan, Pippen and Rodman are free agents, as are six other players on Chicago's 12-man playoff roster. Pippen, believing he has been undervalued by Chicago management, has said repeatedly that he wouldn't return to the Bulls. But he, too, has wavered, saying after Chicago won its sixth championship that he would be open-minded if everyone else came back.

Rodman wants to return, but only if Jordan and Pippen do.

Hapoel Netanya take local rugby championship

By JOEL GORDIN

THE local rugby season came to an end at the weekend when Hapoel Netanya trounced last year's winners ASA Tel Aviv 31-12 in the league play-off finals held at Tel Aviv's Sportek.

Netanya's five tries were scored by flank Guy Dotan (2), lock Avital Eliasov, prop Moshe Cohen and right-wing Oren Beck. Darren Pincus kicked three conversions.

For Tel Aviv, fly-half Rami Avitit and center Gil Tsipser scored tries and Alex Tsichenko kicked a conversion. Netanya led 17-0 at half-time.

Hapoel Netanya in fact won all

this year's competitions. Last week, the club won the cup final by beating Ra'anana 27-7 and earlier this month won the annual Dudi Sibbowitz seven-a-side tournament, beating Kibbutz Yizre'el 34-5 in the final.

The team also won the league's 10-a-side tournament held during May.

The team was well led by Eliasov, while international Guy Dotan was also outstanding among the forwards.

Pincus proved to be an accurate place-kicker and the team was very fortunate in being able to field scrum-half James Whitney, a engineer from the UK who works in Israel.

Dodgers' Valdes one-hits Pirates

McGwire cracks No. 36; Tampa Bay's Arrojito wins 10th

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ismael Valdes pitched his first career one-hitter and Raul Mondesi had a two-run single in the sixth inning as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-0 on Sunday night.

Valdes lost his bid for the 14th perfect game in modern history when Kevin Young singled up the middle on the first pitch of the eighth inning.

Valdes (6-7), who pitched his first career shutout three starts earlier, struck out six and allowed only two balls out of the infield. He is 2-0 in his last four starts, giving up only four earned runs in 30 1-3 innings.

Interleague Roundup
Padres 5, Angels 1

Sterling Hitchcock pitched no-hit ball until allowing Phil Nevin's homer on the first pitch of the eighth inning, finishing with a two-hitter as San Diego won at home.

The Padres remain one of two teams that have been around more than six years that haven't had a no-hitter — the other is the New York Mets.

Hitchcock matched his career high with nine strikeouts. Omar Olivares (5-3) was the losing pitcher.

Giants 6, Rangers 5 (10)

San Francisco's Darryl Hamilton got his fourth hit, a one-out single in the bottom of the 10th inning that bounced past center fielder Tom Gooden.

The Rangers committed a season-high five errors, leading to four unearned runs. San Francisco ended its three-game losing streak and stopped Texas' four-game winning streak.

Astros 9, Indians 5 (11)

Moises Alou hit an RBI single in the top of the 11th off Jose Mesa, and Carl Everett followed with a three-run homer as the Houston Astros beat the Indians 9-5.

Everett's homer punctuated a home-run derby that featured six long balls — three by each team.

Reggie Harris pitched the 11th for Houston, which snapped a three-game losing streak and ended Cleveland's six-game winning streak. The Indians missed a chance to win seven straight for the first time since winning nine in a row in August 1995.

Braves 2, Blue Jays 0

Greg Maddux struck out a career-high 13 and became the NL's first 11-game winner, pitching Atlanta to a home victory.

Maddux (11-2) is 9-0 in his last 12 starts and leads the majors with a 1.64 ERA and three shutouts. The four-time Cy Young winner earned his 100th victory since signing with the Braves before the 1993 season. He is 100-35 for the Braves and 195-110 overall with 26 shutouts.

Maddux walked none and allowed eight hits. The game took 1 hour, 46 minutes, the fastest in the majors this year.

Michael Tucker and Ryan

Klesko hit home runs in the seventh off Juan Guzman (4-10). The Braves stopped a three-game losing streak and ended Toronto's six-game winning string.

Expos 3, Orioles 1
Pinch-hitter Scott Livingstone doubled in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the seventh inning, extending the Orioles' losing streak to five games.

Carl Pavano (2-1) limited the Orioles to four hits in seven innings, allowing the only run on Chris Hoiles' second-inning homer. Ugueth Urbina pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

Devil Rays 5, Phillies 1

Pinch-hitter Paul Sorrento hit a grand slam off host Philadelphia ace Curt Schilling in the eighth inning.

Schilling (7-8) allowed a career-high 13 hits and all five runs after giving up 12 hits and eight runs Monday in a no-decision against Boston. He pitched 7 1/3 innings and struck out eight to increase his major league-leading total to 175.

Tampa Bay's Rolando Arrojito (10-4) allowed six hits in eight innings. He leads AL rookie pitchers in nine pitching categories, including victories and starts (17).

Red Sox 9, Marlins 4

Nomar Garciaparra extended his hitting streak to 19 games as visiting Boston won its third straight.

Garciaparra's streak is tied for the second-longest in the majors this season, one behind Larry Walker's string for Colorado. He had two hits and had reached base in eight consecutive plate appearances against the Marlins before a fly out in the eighth inning.

Tim Wakefield (9-3) allowed four runs and six hits in 7 1/3 innings. Jesus Sanchez (3-5) took the loss.

Brewers 10, White Sox 5

Marquis Grissom doubled to highlight a five-run third inning as visiting Milwaukee won its sixth in a row.

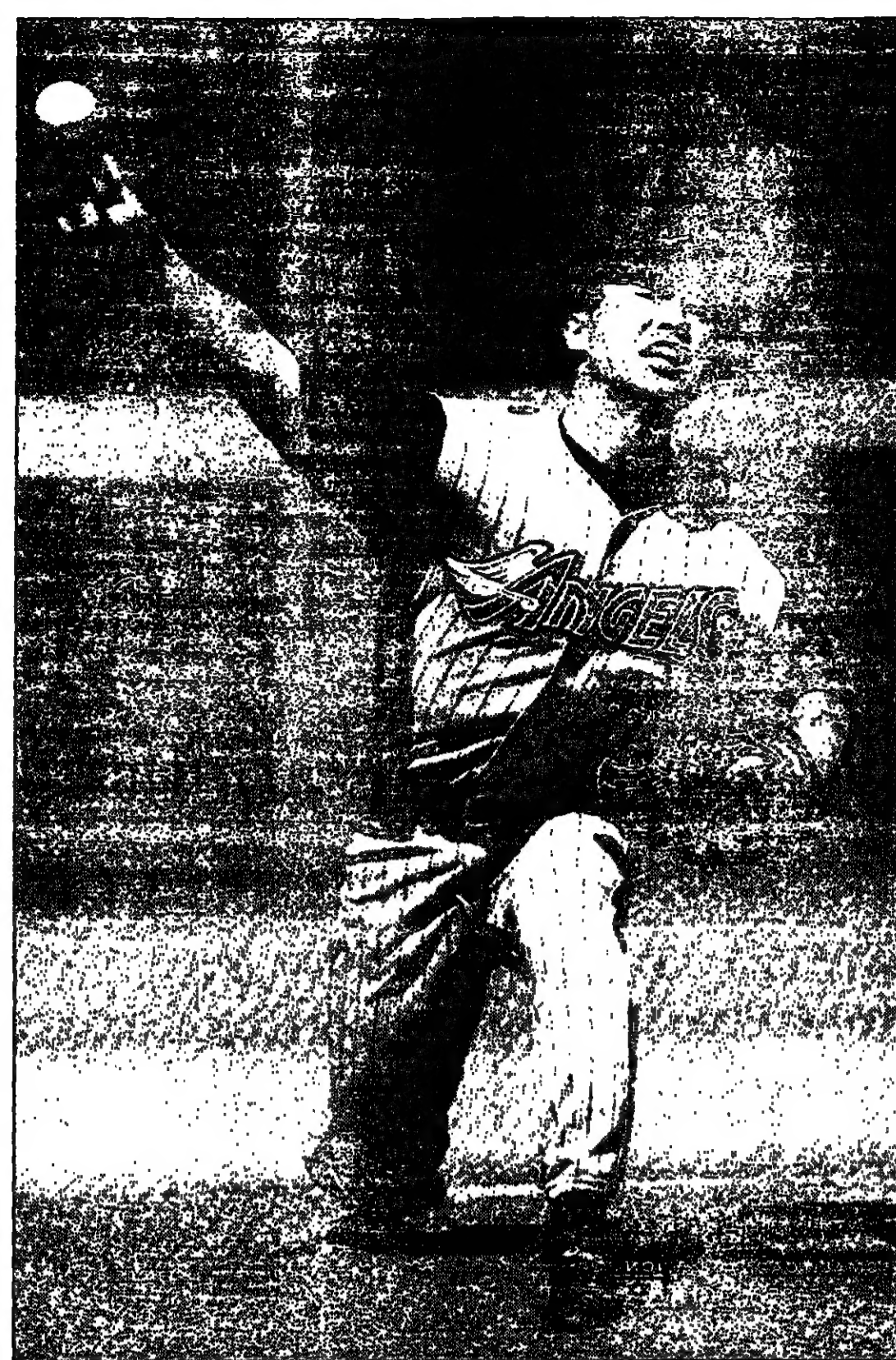
Fernando Vina, who hit two of Milwaukee's seven doubles, Jeremy Burnitz and Jose Valentin each drove in two runs for the Brewers.

Cardinals 7, Twins 2

Mark McGwire hit his 36th home run — matching the most by any St. Louis player in a full season in 49 years — to help visiting St. Louis snap a four-game losing streak.

After failing to hit one out in his first seven plate appearances of the series, McGwire drove a 2-2 pitch from reliever Mike Trombley 431 feet to left-center field for a two-run homer in the seventh inning.

McGwire, who has more homers before July 1 than any player in major league history, needs 26 in the final 83 games to break Roger Maris' record of 61 set in 1961. McGwire's total is the highest for the Cardinals since Stan Musial hit 36 in 1949. The team record is 43



HEAVEN-SENT — Anaheim Angels reliever Shigetoshi Hasegawa lets one fly against the Padres. San Diego won, 5-1.

by Johnny Mize in 1940.

Brian Hunter also homered for the Cardinals.

Reds 6, Tigers 5 (13)

Brook Fordyce and Lenny Harris hit RBI singles in the 13th inning as visiting Cincinnati chalked up its third straight victory following an 11-game losing streak.

Mike Frank walked to lead off the 13th and advanced to second on a sacrifice. Barry Larkin was intentionally walked with two

outs and Fordyce singled for a 5-4 lead, taking second on the throw home. After Dmitri Young was intentionally walked, Harris singled.

Athletics 8, Rockies 6

Rookie Ben Grieff hit a two-out, three-run homer in the top of the ninth inning.

Bip Roberts also homered and drove in three runs for the A's, including the tying run in the ninth with a single off closer Jerry Dipoto (2-4).

Royals 4, Cubs 3 (10)

Johnny Damon's two-out single off Rod Beck in the 10th pushed host Kansas City to its ninth victory in 11 games, while handing the Cubs their seventh straight loss.

Reported in yesterday's edition: Yankees 7, Mets 2

The visiting Yankees made it two straight over the crosstown Mets, getting a strong start from Andy Pettitte and a three-run HR from Tino Martinez to win the second of the three-game Subway Series.

American League			
Team	W	L	Pct.
East Division			
New York	55	19	.743
Boston	47	31	.603
Baltimore	41	40	.506
Baltimore	37	44	.458
Baltimore	33	46	.418
West Division			
Cleveland	46	32	.590
Minnesota	37	42	.466
Kansas City	35	44	.441
Chicago	32	47	.405
Detroit	30	47	.390
West Division			
Seattle	47	32	.595
Seattle	46	34	.575
Oakland	34	43	.441
Seattle	34	47	.420
National League			
Team	W	L	Pct.
East Division			
Atlanta	52	29	.642
New York	42	34	.553
Philadelphia	40	38	.513
Philadelphia	37	47	.439
Florida	22	53	.294
Central Division			
Houston	48	32	.600
Houston	42	38	.525
St. Louis	39	40	.494
Pittsburgh	38	43	.469
Cincinnati	37	49	.432
West Division			
San Diego	53	28	.654
San Francisco	47	35	.573
Los Angeles	39	41	.488
Los Angeles	35	47	.427
Arizona	17	54	.239

Britain, Russia retain Euro Cup athletics titles

ST PETERSBURG (Reuters) — Britain's men's athletics team showed that while their federation may be bankrupt they have a wealth of talent on the track by retaining the European Cup yesterday.

Russia took the women's competition — their seventh Cup triumph — when they beat Germany by 124 points to 108.

Britain's win with 111 points, 2.5 ahead of Germany, ensures them a berth in the World Cup in Johannesburg in September.

The banting British team had come into the meeting without the services of Linford

Christie, winner of a record 13 European Cup events, and potential event winners Steve Smith and Steve Buckley, absent from the high jump and javelin.

"We knew it would be harder than last year, that we would have to scrap for every point," British team captain Roger Black said. "The key to it was that there were second, third and fourth place finishes for people who were only expected to get sixth or seventh."

This is the third time Britain has cracked the Russian and German dominance of the competition. They also won the Cup on

their home track at Gateshead in 1989 and Munich last year.

The lead changed eight times during the afternoon between the Russians, Germans and British. At one stage just a single point separated the top four teams.

Going into the final event, the men's 4x400 meters relay, Germany were 1.5 points ahead of Britain and only needed a second placing to take the Cup. But Britain's world championship silver medal-winning relay squad crossed the line first while Germany finished fifth.

Men's athlete of the meeting was Colin Jackson, who won the 110m hurdles in a world-class 13.17 seconds.

The women's award went to Italy's Fiona May, the only athlete to win two events at the meeting.

The British-born former world long jump champion sustained a fierce challenge in that event from Russia's Lyudmila Galkina, the reigning world champion.

May set her fourth Italian record in as many weeks with 7.08m, to add to her outstanding victory in the previous day's triple jump.

Everybody loves his own team — and Brazil

'They have a special way of playing, like dancing'



EVERYBODY LOVES A LOVER — Chile captain Ivan Zamorano (r) embraces Brazil's Ronaldo.



say I'm from Brazil," said Frida Baranek, a sculptor living in Paris. "They love our team. Everyone does."

No doubt about that. France's authoritative sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, devoted a 116-page special-edition magazine to the country that has won four World Cups and shuts down whenever its team plays a game.

Ronaldo, the hot young striker seen as a successor to Pelé, appears in ads, on magazine covers, on posters, on T-shirts. So do a handful of his teammates.

Paris is turning over its streets this week for a Brazilian Festival, complete with Chico Buarque and Gilberto Gil. A radio station offers a selection of Ronaldo's favorite music.

And every time Brazil plays, the stadium is an impromptu party.

A small band of women in tanga string bikinis and glitter who samba through the crowds make the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders seem ready for the convent. Drums and tambourines follow behind.

"Brazil is always a party," said Henri Michel, the former French coach whose team eliminated Brazil in 1986. The ultimate French dream is a France-Brazil final.

The party will last at least through the quarterfinals. Brazil advanced Saturday with a 4-1 victory over Chile.

Even when they lose, Brazilians manage to find fun in soccer.

Opponents call them good sports in a game where competition is fierce.

When Norway beat Brazil, 2-1, in Marseille last week, the jubilant victors toured the field to bask in applause. Brazilians cheered almost as loudly as the Norwegians.

Afterward, Luciana Alvez, 26, a Sao Paulo lawyer ablaze in green and yellow, could barely speak after all the screaming. She showed no sign of the wounded pride that is common after matches.

"We deserved to lose," she said, launching into a detailed technical explanation of what she called strategic errors. "Every Brazilian knows this except our coach."

Brazilians love soccer, she said, because everyone understands something about it. Poor kids can kick a ball around their favelas and dream of glory. And, mostly, it's an excuse to party.

Antonio Vasconcelos, who owns a radio station in Parana, sat alone with a smile on his face. Brazil had already qualified for its next round. What difference did a loss make? "Football is for having fun, not just to attack," he said.

"For us, football and samba and music are all mixed together. We like to have fun, and the feeling is infectious."

The Norwegians, meantime, had gone into a frenzy. It was not so much that they won a game. They had beaten Brazil.

Erik Strand, a 28-year-old student with wild hair, swayed back and forth in a doorway, flapping his Norway scarf in the air and grinning. "Can you imagine?" he said. "Brazil."

Baranek, who does not particularly like soccer, loves to watch her team play. Beyond a feeling of national pride, she likes the moves.

"They have a special way of playing, like dancing," she explained. "There is a way you move your waist, your body. It is beautiful to watch."

Foreigners appreciate this, she added, but there is more. "Brazil is so far away, and we're a neutral country," she said. "No one is against Brazil. You see all this trouble with the English, the Germans. We just have a good time."



GOOD LUCK CHARM — A Brazilian supporter warms up her vocal chords before Saturday's game against Chile.

Schumacher wins French Grand Prix

MAGNY COURS (AP) — Michael Schumacher took advantage of a race re-start to win the French Grand Prix yesterday to lead the first Ferrari 1-2 finish in nearly eight years.

He closed within six points of Mika Hakkinen with half the season to go.

Schumacher's Ferrari teammate Eddie Irvine, acting as a buffer between Schumacher and Hakkinen for most of the race, came in second, 19.5 seconds behind.

A frustrated Hakkinen in a McLaren-Mercedes was third, barely behind Irvine after trying to pass him for the last 15 laps of the race.

It was the first 1-2 finish for Ferrari since the Spanish Grand Prix in 1990 when Alan Prost and Nigel Mansell took the top two slots for the red cars. Jacques Villeneuve, last year's Formula One champion, was fourth in Williams-Mecachrome. Villeneuve beat Schumacher for the title in the last race of the 1997 season after a dramatic collision forced Schumacher out of the race.

Alexander Wurz of Austria was in fifth with a Benetton-Playlife followed by David Coulthard, plagued by problems fueling in the pits, in sixth with a McLaren-Mercedes.

Schumacher did 1 hour, 34 minutes, 45.026 seconds for the 71 laps of the 4.25-kilometer Magny Cours circuit. He averaged 190.963 kph for the 301.75 kilometers.

Hakkinen still leads the drivers standings with 50 points but Schumacher moved up to 44.

It was Schumacher's 30th career victory and third this season. He also has won the French Grand Prix four of the last five times. He missed out in 1996 when he car's engine failed on the warm-up lap.

The race had to begin twice. The first time Jos Verstappen, who had replaced Jan Magnussen at Stewart-Ford this week, stalled out just before the start as the rest of the field roared away. Hakkinen had the lead but the race was stopped.

On the re-start Schumacher and Irvine pulled ahead of Hakkinen on the first turn, a perfect start for the Ferraris.

"I thought I had a good start and then when I saw Eddie in second I thought that's the scenario I'd like to have," Schumacher said.

Schumacher pulled away from his teammate Irvine who forced the McLarens to lap about a second slower than Schumacher in the early stages.



WINGING IT — South African wing Pieter Rossouw collides with Wales center Leigh Davies (l) during a touring match at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria.

Dunstall career in doubt, Saints hit the top

MELBOURNE (AP) — Hawthorn great Jason Dunstall's Australian Football League career may be finished after he suffered a broken collarbone on the weekend.

Dunstall, the leading goal scorer still playing, has said this season would be his last and the end may have come prematurely in a 13.14 (92) to 11.10 (76) loss against Carlton on Saturday.

Dunstall is just 48 goals short of breaking the long-standing AFL record of Gordon Coventry's 1299 career goals.

"It would certainly be a very sad way for his footy career to end if that's what happens," Hawthorn coach Ken Judge said.

Dunstall's injury overshadowed unfashionable St. Kilda's rise to the top of the ladder following a victory in the clash against previous leader Western Bulldogs.

The Saints won 12.15 (87) to 10.12 (72) to claim their 11th win from 14 matches this season.

Bulldogs coach Terry Wallace was frustrated by the umpiring and said he would bring the matter up

with AFL officials.

Wallace was livid when forward James Cook was denied a shot at goal halfway through the last quarter after a free kick was paid to the Saints following an off-the-ball incident. Cook had the chance to put the Bulldogs within nine points at the 16-minute mark as he lined up a shot from 35 meters out, when the free was reversed.

"I thought it was very significant," Wallace said. "I'm not necessarily disputing the umpire's decision, but it was the first turn-around free kick I've seen in a month of football."

Sydney's inconsistent season wore on as defending champion continued its strong mid-season surge. The Crows beat the Swans 18.16 (124) to 12.15 (87) at the SCG yesterday.

At the MCG, Richmond full-forward Matthew Richardson kicked seven goals to lead his side to a 90-point mauling of Fremantle.

Richardson bagged six of his goals in the first half to set up the 23.7 (145) to 8.7 (55) victory.

Two last-quarter goals from

teenager Port Adelaide forward Warren Tredrea helped his side to a fighting 13.13 (91) to 10.13 (73) win over Geelong in torrential rain at Football Park.

Geelong hit the front minutes into the final term but Tredrea kicked two crucial goals to spark a four-goal run by the Power which sealed the match and kept the Cats winless in premiership season matches in Adelaide.

In other matches, Brisbane beat Collingwood 19.21 (135) to 12.11 (83), North Melbourne defeated Essendon 19.13 (127) to 16.13 (109) and Melbourne beat West Coast 14.12 (96) to 11.13 (79).

Results of Australian Football League round 14 matches on the weekend: Carlton 13.14 (92) def. Hawthorn 11.10 (76), Richmond 23.7 (145) def. Fremantle 8.7 (55), St. Kilda 12.15 (87) def. Western Bulldogs 10.12 (72), Melbourne 14.12 (96) def. West Coast 11.13 (79), Port Adelaide 13.13 (91) def. Geelong 10.13 (73), North Melbourne 19.13 (127) def. Essendon 16.13 (109), Brisbane 19.21 (135) def. Collingwood 12.11 (83), Adelaide 18.16 (124) def. Sydney 12.15 (87).

Springboks give Wales a whipping, 96-13

PRETORIA (Reuters) — South Africa romped to a 15-try record 96-13 victory over Wales on Saturday.

The Springboks surpassed their previous test best 74-10 against Tonga, with fullback Percy Montgomery's two tries, nine conversions and one penalty giving him a South Africa international record 31 points.

It was Wales' heaviest loss and also the worst defeat for a Five Nations side.

Springbok coach Nick Mallett pulled no punches over the Welsh side's talents. "Any Super 12 side would have beaten Wales by 40 points tonight. They are one of the worst international sides I have

seen."

But Welsh caretaker-coach Dennis John tried to put a positive spin on the humiliating defeat. "There was a lot of heart and pride," he said. "We came here and we stood up — we are not sitting back home, not facing anything. At least we are here."

The Welsh scoring duties fell upon the shoulders of flyhalf Arwel Thomas, who racked up all his side's points with a try, two penalties and a conversion.

But the visitors managed to lead the world champions for seven minutes after a penalty in the second minute.

Montgomery's equalizer paved the way for two quick South

African tries by right wing Stefan Terblanche and flank Andre Venter.

That opened the floodgates and set in motion a veritable free-for-all as the Springboks began scoring literally at will, with wing Pieter Rossouw collecting his hat-trick.

An already weakened Wales were plagued by injury before this one-off test, and suffered a further blow with the loss of British Lions scrumhalf Robert Howley, who failed to recover from a hamstring injury.

But not even he could have stopped a Springbok juggernaut desperate for a convincing win ahead of next month's daunting Tri-Nations series.

Wales return home without a single win on their five-match tour.

"We are happy to play against them but it's not good preparation for the Tri-Nations. We have to keep our victory in perspective," said Mallett.

"They need to pick athletic forwards — you can't have these big, heavy guys who can't run around — but perhaps the conditions in which they play back home are not conducive to producing them."

John gave credit to South Africa but lashed out at Welsh players who elected not to make the trip.

"Speed of thought and the intensity were the difference," he said. "And all those subtle little things you don't see from the sideline like screening the ball and the little obstructions."

But South Africa played very well. There's a little bit of hurt. The hurt has been inflicted but it has been inflicted on the willing people. The boys that are playing rugby and sitting back at home in a comfort zone now might as well give up rugby and start playing cricket."

"We are a resilient bunch in Wales. The fat luggers have always sent us forward into war and now we are doing it again."

Do you believe in magic?

Brazil won the World Cup in 1994. Before that, they won in 1970, 1994 + 1970 = 3964.
Argentina won in 1986. Before that, they won in 1978, 1986 + 1978 = 3964.
Germany won in 1990. Before that, they won in 1974, 1990 + 1974 = 3964.
Here is the good part. England won in 1966. Add 1998 and... IT'S THE SAME... 3964!

From the Internet

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CRITICS' CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Little Orphan Annie was a comics staple for years. Annie, the 1976 musical created by Martin Charnin, Charles Strouse and Thomas Meehan was a big hit too. Now the Jerusalem English Speaking Theater (JEST) has Naomi Ellenson and Hava Munishor alternating as Annie; Cheryl Meirovich plays the scheming Miss Hannigan, and Marvin Meital is "Daddy" Warbucks. Annie's billionaire benefactor. There's also a passel of kids playing the orphans and the indomitable Leah Stoller wields her whip - 'er - directs the whole thing. JEST's buoyant production of Annie opens tonight at the Gerard Behar Center at 8:30 p.m.



JEST's 'Annie' opens at Gerard Behar tonight

DANCE

The millennium with all its questions, hopes and promise is Berta Yampolsky's subject in *Ecstasy*, her newest work for the Israel Ballet set to percussion. It's paired with her *Two by Two* and *Everybody*, as well as a work by Balanchine. Tonight at the Nahariya Municipal Auditorium at 8:30 p.m.

MUSIC

HELEN KAYE

That spunky little Ra'anana *Symphonette* is popping up again, this time with three other orchestras made up of immigrants from the former USSR. They are the Ma'lot Woodwind Ensemble and the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba and the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion. All four combine their talents in a special concert conducted by Mendi Rodan called *Sound for the Immigrant*. Featured soloists include Ahinoam Nini and Gill Dror, soprano Larissa Tatyevna, tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov, Shlomo Gronich and his Shva Choir. The music includes an aria from Tchaikovsky's opera *Yevgeny Onegin*, part of Mendelssohn's violin concerto

and *Enek* by Marc Lavry. Tonight at the beautiful Roman Amphitheater in Beit Shean at 8:30 p.m.

FILM

HELEN KAYE

*** THE WEDDING SINGER - Light as a feather and about as nourishing, this is a silly but entertaining romantic comedy that stars Adam Sandler as a suburban crooner who makes a living serenading newbies at a local reception hall, and Drew Barrymore as a cute waitress engaged to marry a big lug of a junk-bond trader. Director Frank Coraci and screenwriter Tim Herlihy understand the trifling nature of their material and they do a good job of keeping things bubbly and proportional. Much of the humor here comes from the picture's comic-book approach to its time frame. The year is 1985, the clothes are tacky and everyone's hair looks awful. And though it is a bit disconcerting to see such recent fads already treated as the stuff of ancient history, the filmmakers' exaggerated approach to their setting feels necessary. The story alone is too slight to sustain an entire picture, and by adding a bit of polyester sparkle, they give themselves more room to play. (Parental guidance suggested).

DRIVE CAREFULLY

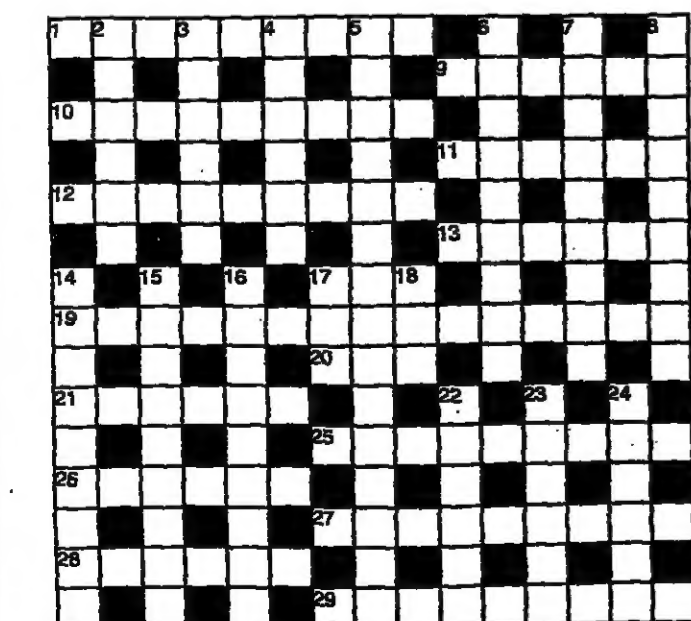
WINNING CARDS

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily chance drawing



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Defective tans (9)
 - Poet's always following vehicle in his way through life (5)
 - Outlaw in favour of journalist (9)
 - Quite beautiful? (9)
 - Unorthodox monarch we find in dailies (9)
 - African political party - any turning out? (9)
 - The main subject of Elgar's pictures (3)
 - Their mounds can be spoiled by post-impressionist (5,10)
 - Social occasion for a queen, perhaps (3)
 - Strongly urge one to take part in exotic horticultural membership (6)
- DOWN**
- Swampy planet, hot to unknown degree (6)
 - English deciphering runes, in effect (6)
 - Loud quarrel to produce litter (6)
 - What offers choice of channels is close-inventable, possibly? (5,10)



SOLUTIONS

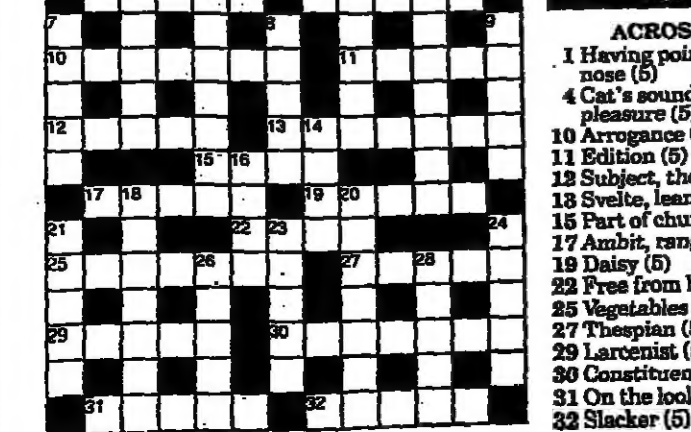
ACROSS

- 1 Defective tans (9) - 9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.

DOWN

- 1 Swampy planet, hot to unknown degree (6) - 1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Having pointed nose (5)
 - 4 Cat's sounds of pleasure (5)
 - 10 Arrogance (7)
 - 11 Edition (5)
 - 12 Subject, theme (5)
 - 13 Svelte, lean (7)
 - 15 Part of church (4)
 - 17 Ambit, range (5)
 - 19 Daisy (5)
 - 22 Free from harm (4)
 - 25 Vegetables (7)
 - 27 Theopist (5)
 - 29 Larcenist (5)
 - 30 Constituent (7)
 - 31 On the lookout (5)
 - 32 Slacker (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Big cut, supply (5)
 - 3 Pate (7)
 - 5 Amalgamate, marry (5)
 - 6 Dregs, rest (7)
 - 7 Pals, ashens (5)
 - 8 Andacity (5)
 - 9 It's made by oyster (5)
 - 14 Sheet of paper in book (4)
 - 16 Nuisance (4)
 - 18 Affable (7)
 - 20 eg Kelp (7)
 - 21 Keen, crucial (5)
 - 23 Awry (5)
 - 24 Accuracy, honesty (5)
 - 26 Bid (5)
 - 28 In that place (5)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 African Footsteps
8:30 Pique Nique
9:00 Science
9:15 Mathematics
10:00 Progress for the very young
11:00 History
11:45 Literature
12:15 Sciences
13:15 Medicine
13:20 Animation
14:30 Bay City
15:00 River Horse Lake

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 X Men
16:30 The Tashkane
16:30 Boy Meets World
16:45 New Evening
17:15 France '98
ARABIC PROGRAMS
19:30 News
HEBREW PROGRAMS
20:00 News
20:10 LA Heat
21:00 News
21:45 France '98
00:00 News
00:05 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shell
6:00 - narration
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:45 This Morning
6:50 Rivka Michaeli
6:55 Rich Man Poor Man
10:50 Dynasty
11:00 The Galilee
12:14 The Prison
12:35 Scooby Doo
12:40 My Secret Identity
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Tick Tack
14:10 Sesame Street
15:00 Major Dad
15:25 Roseanne
16:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Paul
17:30 Third in Line
18:00 The World's Dumbest Criminals
18:15 Relativity
18:30 Walker Texas Ranger
20:00 News
20:10 An Unusual Evening
21:27 Blind Date
22:05 On the Map
22:30 Under One
00:00 News
00:05 Murder One - cont.
00:23 The Summer of White Roses (1990) - an unassuming man takes a woman and her son on the run from the Nazis under his wing. With Tom Connolly and Susan George
0:41 Story of the Festival
2:58 Anything But Love
3:22 End Festival '97
3:45 On the Edge of the Shell

CHANNEL 3

7:00 ETV: The Good Empire
7:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
8:00 One Life to Live
8:45 The Young and the Restless
10:00 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Angels Don't Cry
12:00 The Love Boat
12:30 The John Larroquette Show
14:00 Switched at Birth
14:10 Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:45 Judge Judy
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 The Other Half
18:00 The King (re-rp)
18:30 Local Broadcast
18:50 Moesha
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:15 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Third Rock from the Sun
20:30 Just Shoot Me
21:10 The Larry Sanders Show
21:35 Scooby Doo
22:00 Under One
22:30 Seinfeld (re-rp)
23:00 Rick Lake
23:45 Law and Order
00:30 News
1:20 The Love Boat

JORDAN TV (31)

(unconfirmed)

16:00 France '98

16:40 LA Heat

17:00 The Bold and the Beautiful

18:00 Acapulco Bay

18:15 The Journal

18:30 Circle of Cinque

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Hope and Gloria

20:00 Pampuch

20:30 US Subway

21:10 Warner

22:00 France '98

22:30 Seinfeld (re-rp)

00:30 Comedy

MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:30 Body Electric

15:00 Basic Training

15:30 The 700 Club

16:00 Larry King

17:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

17:20 Watch

17:45 McGee and Me

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Time Warriors 2

12:00 The Warriors

12:30 The Warriors

13:00 The Warriors

13:30 The Warriors

14:00 The Warriors

14:30 The Warriors

15:00 The Warriors

15:30 The Warriors

16:00 The Warriors

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